

ACC contractors sign pact

AMMAN (Petra, I.T.) — Representatives of the contracting sector in the four-country Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) signed an agreement in Amman Monday, paving the ground for closer cooperation among contracting firms and organisations in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen through a unified strategy. According to a statement issued here following three days of meetings, the contractors said that the projected strategy should unify legislations and rules concerning the contracting and construction sector and its operations, which would help free the Arab markets from dependence on foreign contractors. The statement said that the participants agreed on the creation of a special unit within the ACC's general secretariat to follow up matters pertaining to construction and contracting businesses. According to the statement, the participants recommended that special laws and regulations be enacted in the four countries to facilitate the flow of capital and machinery used by contracting firms in the ACC countries, and emphasised the need for all contracting businesses to employ Arab experts engineers and workers in the execution of projects.

Jordan Times

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Gorbachev, Castro begin talks

HAVANA (AP) — Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and Fidel Castro Monday began daylong talks expected to deal with differences between the two Communist countries, amid Soviet assurances the Kremlin is not seeking blind loyalty from its most enduring overseas ally. The government news media spoke in glowing terms of the first visit by the Soviet Communist Party leader to a Latin American nation. "Endless and massive reception for Gorbachev," headlined Cuba's Communist Party daily, Granma, alluding to the hundreds of thousands who lined the streets for a glimpse of the Soviet president. After laying a wreath at a monument to Cuban independence hero Jose Marti, Gorbachev and his Cuban counterpart set aside more than six hours for talks on the Soviet leader's first full day in Cuba. Castro, wearing the green fatigues uniform that has been his trademark for three decades, walked onto the rain-soaked tarmac after Gorbachev's Illyushin 62 jetliner landed Sunday and threw his arms around the Soviet leader. It was the third meeting of the Communist chiefs since Gorbachev's first visit to Cuba, the island-nation that for nearly 30 years has stood as a symbol of Soviet influence 140 kilometres off the U.S. coast.

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Al Hussein congratulates Arafat

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday congratulated Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on his election as president of the Palestinian state.

State-run Radio Jordan said the King sent Arafat "the sincerest greetings and wishes on the occasion of your election as president of the state of Palestine."

The King praised Arafat's "wise and patriotic Palestinian leadership" and expressed "our endless support of the PLO, praying to God that Palestine independence and freedom will crown the brave and continued struggle of the Palestinian people."

On Sunday, the 70-member PLO Central Committee voted unanimously to make Arafat the first president of the Palestinian state declared last year by the Palestine National Council.

Scores of countries have recognised the state, although the lands are all under Israeli military occupation.

Iraq and Turkey also congratulated Arafat Monday on becoming president.

"I use this occasion to express our firm support for the PLO, beseeching God to crown the Palestinian people's heroic struggle with the independence and freedom of Palestine," the message said.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted President Saddam Hussein as telling Arafat "your election reflects your people's and its legitimate bodies' appreciation for your long struggle for the Palestinian cause."

Turkish President Kenan Evren told Arafat: "Your appointment to this important position at the present critical time will contribute to the success of the Palestinian cause."

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal in his congratulatory message reiterated Turkey's "staunch support for the just cause of Palestine."

The Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP and DFLP), both based in Damascus but within the PLO, voted in Tunis for Arafat.

In Qatar, the daily Al Raya said Arafat's elevation to the presidency showed "that Palestinian people are determined to execute his initiative to set up his own state."

Palestinians in the occupied territories Sunday hailed Arafat's appointment.

"This is an important part of the process started by the declaration of a state by the Palestine National Council and its recognition by many nations," said Ibrahim Dakkak, head of the Arab Thought Forum policy think-tank in East Jerusalem.

U.K. aides praise establishment of ACC

LONDON (Petra) — Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Monday held talks here with British Minister of State for Defence Purchases Lord Trefgaran, Chief of the Joint Staff Sir David Craig, and a number of senior British military commanders.

According to Jordan News Agency, Petra, the British officials praised the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) as "an outstanding event in the Middle East region."

They also lauded the distinguished and important role His Majesty King Hussein is playing on the Arab and international levels, as well as his major role in the establishment of the ACC.

The British officials also spoke highly of the high standard the Jordanian Armed Forces attained and expressed their country's continuous support for these forces on all levels.

General Abu Taleb conveyed Jordan's appreciation for the continuous British support and affirmed the need to develop bilateral relations in the interest of the two countries.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by the delegation accompanying Abu Taleb, Jordanian Ambassador in London Dr. Albert Butros and the Jordanian military attaché.

Abu Taleb is scheduled to visit a number of British military institutions and air bases Tuesday.

King returns after talks with Iraqi leader on Arab issues

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein returned to Amman Monday after a short visit to Baghdad during which he held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the civil war in Lebanon, the Palestinian question and other Arab issues.

They also discussed ways of consolidating action within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Jordan and Iraq, together with Egypt and North Yemen, formed the regional economic grouping in February.

A Jordanian official said prime ministers of the four ACC countries planned to meet in Baghdad on April 10 to prepare for a meeting of heads of state expected to take place in Cairo in May.

The meetings were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's political adviser Adnan Abu Odeh, the King's private adviser Amer Khammash, and the Jordan's ambassador in Baghdad.

Al Hussein to inaugurate King Abdullah Mosque

AMMAN (Petra) — The King Abdullah Martyr's Mosque at Abdali will be formally inaugurated here Wednesday by His Majesty King Hussein, according to an official statement by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The statement said that the opening ceremony, which will take place after the afternoon prayers, will be addressed by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat.

Khatib delivers Rifai's message to Sheikh Saad

KUWAIT (Petra) — Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah Monday received a letter from Prime Minister Zaid Rifai which was delivered in Kuwait by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib.

Khatib also called at the general secretariat of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) where he discussed matters related to the 1992 pan-Arab energy conference.

Khatib arrived in Kuwait Sunday evening on a several day official visit.

Qasem, Goulding discuss Mideast

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem held a meeting in his office Monday with U.N. Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Marack Goulding with whom he reviewed the situation in the Middle East.

Goulding was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as expressing the United Nations appreciation for Jordan's constructive contribution towards

Tunisian ruling party wins all seats in general elections

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's ruling party won all 141 seats in parliamentary elections Sunday, dashing opposition hopes that under their new liberal president they could break the monopoly on power it has held for more than 30 years.

The two main opposition groups, the left-of-centre Movement of Socialist Democrats (MDS) and a loose alliance of Muslim militants, disputed the result, saying the authorities practised the same abuses as under former President Habib Bourguiba.

"We have established that there were grave irregularities but we are still taking stock," Islamic leader Rached Ghannouchi told Reuters shortly after the last result came out Monday.

The Interior Ministry, which ran the elections, has denied there were serious malpractices and said it took immediate action to deal with complaints.

The elections, for a new Chamber of Deputies (parliament), are the first since President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali removed Bourguiba from power in November 1987 and promised Tunisians a change from the intolerance of his predecessor.

A simultaneous presidential



His Majesty King Hussein is welcomed at Baghdad Airport Monday by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (Petra photo)

On the Iraqi side, the meeting was attended by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, Sa'doun Hammadi, Information and Culture Minister Latif Nusif Jasem, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman. On Monday evening the Iraqi president gave a banquet in honour of the King.

King cables good wishes to Hungary, Senegal

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of good wishes to Senegal's President Abdo Diouf on his country's independence anniversary. The King also sent a cable of good wishes to the president of Hungary on his country's independence day. King Hussein wished the two presidents continued health and progress and the Hungarian and Senegalese people further progress and prosperity.

Bush calls for end to Israeli occupation

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush called Monday for a "properly structured" Middle East peace conference and an end to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Bush, saying he also supported "achievement of Palestinian political rights," spoke at a White House news conference after meeting more than an hour with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who called the U.S.-PLO dialogue one of the "breakthroughs" in the region.

Mubarak urged Bush to prod the Israelis to meet with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), saying "the situation is right for an active effort more than ever before."

The statements could exert pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who is expected to propose elections in the territories aimed at finding alternatives to the PLO.

Mubarak told Bush in the meeting that elections under Israeli supervision were unacceptable to the Palestinians, a senior U.S. official said afterward.

Bush, apparently not rejecting Mubarak's statement out of hand, responded by raising questions about various forms of supervision, the official said on condition of anonymity.

At the news conference, Bush echoed another of Mubarak's principal proposals: "A properly structured international conference could play a useful role at an appropriate time," Bush said.

The U.S. official who briefed reporters said Mubarak would like the peace conference held toward the end of the year or in early 1990.

But, the official said, "We believe there is a lot of ground that has to be covered before there could be an international conference."

Bush also said "Egypt and the United States share the goals of security for Israel, end of the occupation and achievement of Palestinian political rights."

EC, U.S. call on all sides to stop fighting Lebanese prepare for worse fighting in three-week blitz

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Falangist troops and opposition forces fought fierce battles near Beirut Monday and residents battered by three weeks of non-stop shelling prepared for worse.

Police said the two sides fought with artillery, rockets and heavy machineguns across a mountain ridge southeast of Beirut. Three people were killed and seven wounded, taking the toll since mid-March to 120 dead and more than 460 wounded.

Security sources said shells also hit east Beirut's port and the international airport in west Beirut.

A few Beirut residents dashed from shelters during the morning to lay in more supplies and rescue workers searched for people trapped by a ferocious artillery blitz Sunday.

Military experts said the fighting was increasing in ferocity with each new round and heavier weapons were being used every day. They urged civilians to step up safety precautions.

"Most shelters are already ringed with sandbags but some shells are heavy enough to pierce them," said one civil defence official.

Army Commander Michel

ters trying to mediate a settlement.

The leader of a civilian government in opposition to Aoun, Selim Hoss, suggested Sunday that both he and Aoun should resign as a way to end the fighting.

Leaders of 20 Lebanese opposition militias will hold talks here Wednesday with an Arab League mediation committee on ways of ending fierce civil war fighting in Beirut, Berri said.

Berri said the militias would present a "programme to change the sectarian regime in Lebanon and put an end to Israeli intervention."

A ceasefire call last week by the six-member committee of Arab League Foreign Ministers headed by Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait was ignored by both sides.

Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi will also attend the talks, along with the foreign ministers of Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria, The United Arab Emirates and Jordan.

In Washington, the United States Monday condemned three weeks of non-stop shelling in Lebanon and urged all sides to end the siege.

State Department spokes-

woman Margaret Tutwiler said U.S. ambassadors in Damascus and Beirut had communicated Washington's message to Syrian officials, to their allies in Lebanon and to opposing Lebanese Falangist forces.

"The United States condemns the continued artillery exchanges by all sides in Beirut, with their reckless disregard for civilian lives and welfare," she said.

"All participants in the fighting, both foreign and domestic, should immediately cease fire and lift the siege and blockade," she added.

Tutwiler reiterated strong U.S. support for peace-keeping efforts by the Arab League Committee on Lebanon and said the combatants should receive the Arab League representatives and "end any further delay in the League's peace initiative."

Meanwhile, the European Community said Monday it was worried by the worsening conflict in Beirut and appealed to all sides to stop fighting and allow a peaceful solution.

The EC, reiterating an appeal made on March 20, called "on forces in conflict to put an end to their fighting to allow a peaceful solution to the current crisis," a statement said.

6 more Palestinians injured in West Bank, Gaza Strip protests

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (Agencies) — Six Palestinian demonstrators were injured during clashes with Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip and a seventh in the West Bank town of Hebron, Palestinian sources said Monday.

Meanwhile a 25-year-old resident of the Khan Younis refugee camp in Gaza, suspected of selling drugs, was stabbed to death.

Residents said his two brothers rushed him to hospital in a car but were shot and wounded by soldiers for ignoring an order to stop. The army said those in the car were injured when it crashed.

In a separate development, an Israeli court Monday sentenced a photographer to a four-month suspended prison term for entering a Palestinian refugee camp that the army had declared a closed military area.

Also Monday, a children's advocacy group said a 10-year-old Gaza Strip boy caught protesting was illegally detained for two weeks last month. In Israel, the age of criminal responsibility is 12.

Defence Ministry spokesman Eitan Haber said he was checking the report.

District Court Judge Edna Benkenstein in Netanya handed down a four-month suspended jail term to photographer Claudio Nutkiewicz and fined him 1,000 shekels (\$555) for entering the West Bank refugee camp of Balaia in December 1987, Nutkiewicz said.

He said the settlers' practice

endangered journalists' lives.

Palestinian demonstrators usually target settler-owned cars, but in most cases allow press cars to pass freely.

"The settlers think (the signs) will help, but the result will be that the Arabs will stone both of us and in the end democracy will suffer," Shaked said on Israel Radio.

Meanwhile Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, preparing to leave Monday for talks in Washington, promised Jewish settlers in the occupied territories he would never abandon them despite strong pressures on Israel.

"Powerful forces are at work against Israel and it is up to us to prevent these pressures. We must be prepared and united against the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation)," his office quoted Shamir as telling the 70,000 Jews of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Sunday.

The United States, Israel's closest ally, has consistently criticised Jewish settlement in occupied territories.

President George Bush's new administration, anxious to break the Arab-Israeli deadlock, has urged Shamir to offer new ideas to resolve the Arab-Israeli deadlock.

Israeli sources said Washington had welcomed his proposal this week to let Palestinians elect representatives to peace talks.

PLO rejects Israeli election offer

NICOSIA (AP) — The Central Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, ending a 4-day conference in Tunisia Monday, barred any let up in the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories in exchange for Israeli-sponsored elections.

"The Central Committee announced to the world that the intifada will not cease and our people's struggle will continue," said the statement telefaxed to the Associated Press in Cyprus by the official Palestinian Press Agency, Wafa.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir announced last week his government would allow limited elections in the occupied territories, and withdraw troops from major Arab cities, if the Palestinian uprising stopped.

But the Israeli leader, due in Washington for talks this week, envisions only limited autonomy for the Palestinians and eschews talks with the PLO.

The Central Committee rejects "all the attempts and manoeuvres for ending the intifada or easing it for holding fake elections under the occupation," the statement

said.

At least 417 Palestinians have been killed in the nearly 16-month-old uprising against Israel's military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The 70-member Central Committee is an interim group of the 450-seat Palestine National Council (PNC), which is scheduled to meet once a year. The Central Committee and the smaller, 15-member Executive Committee, make policy recommendations to be weighed by the full body.

The Central Committee reviewed the United States-PLO talks, "welcomed the continuation of these talks and stressed their importance," the statement said. The U.S. started talks with the PLO in December for the first time in 13 years after the organisation renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist.

The statement said the committee also stressed the importance of holding an international conference on Middle East peace this year.

It called for the five permanent nations on the United Nations Security Council -- the United

Iraq warns Israel against attack

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq poured scorn Monday on foreign press reports accusing it of developing nuclear weapons and said it would hit back hard if Israel repeated a 1981 raid on an Iraqi nuclear reactor.

The ruling Baath Party Al Thawra newspaper said: "If you (Israel) want to strike a blow against Iraq, you should know that Iraq is vigilant, able to strike back if it is harmed."

The Washington Post, quoting unidentified Israeli officials, said Friday that Iraq was developing nuclear warheads for use with strategic missiles also under development. It said Israel was considering taking action.

The West German magazine Stern said Sunday that West German companies were suspected of illegally exporting equipment to help Iraq to set up a secret base to test nuclear missiles.

Iraq's official newspapers all carried front-page articles denouncing "the Zionist-steered American campaign and Israeli Mossad (intelligence agency) claims of so-called Iraqi nuclear threats."

The Israeli Air Force destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981, saying it was preventing Iraq acquiring nuclear weapons.

Rafael Eitan, Israeli army chief at the time of the 1981 attack, said last week that Israel should destroy the reactor if Iraq rebuilt it.

The Iraqi papers said Iraq was now better prepared. In 1981, it was preoccupied with the war with Iran which ended under a ceasefire last August.

The Iraqi press said Baghdad's response to any attack "will be the use of all the active methods and means it possesses."

The Washington Post report said Iraq aimed to develop and test a nuclear warhead within two years using enriched uranium left over from the Osirak reactor, which Iraq has said was built for peaceful purposes.

U.S. President George Bush said Friday he could not confirm the Washington Post report. "I don't want to give credence to the (reported) fact that Iraq is in the process of building nuclear weapons. I cannot confirm that," he said.

The Iraqi papers accused the U.S. press of "intentionally neglecting Israel's acquisition of nuclear weapons and its refusal to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty."

Turkey recalls envoy to Tehran for consultation

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey is calling its ambassador in Tehran home for consultations to protest Iran's interference in Turkey's internal affairs, the Foreign Ministry announced Monday.

Nuzhet Kandemir, the Foreign Ministry undersecretary, told reporters at a news conference that Ambassador Omer Akbel will be returning home within a week.

Calling home an ambassador for consultations does not amount to the formal recalling of an envoy, which is a more serious breach in diplomatic relations.

Turkey's decision marked the continuation of a series of incidents which have severely strained Turkish-Iranian relations in the past few months.

Kandemir said Iranian officials and institutions have shown an unaccustomed and bothersome interest in a recent decision by Turkey's constitutional court to ban Turkish university women from wearing traditional Islamic headscarves on campus.

Kandemir said Iranian officials and institutions have shown an unaccustomed and bothersome interest in a recent decision by Turkey's constitutional court to ban Turkish university women from wearing traditional Islamic headscarves on campus.

Iranians marched in Tehran to protest the decision and the Iranian state-run radio broadcast commentaries critical of the ban.

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini also denounced the Turkish ruling in a speech two weeks ago and expressed support for demonstrations here by Turkish Muslim fundamentalists against the ban.

"The state controlled Iranian radio and most authoritative officials have, much to our regret, attempted to take part in this issue which is solely related to Turkey's internal affairs, by issuing provocative and inciting messages against our country," Kandemir said.

He also criticised the activities of the Iranian ambassador here. Kandemir said Ambassador Minochehr Mortaki attended a rally organised by a political party (the Religious Prosperity Party) and actively took part in the function by appearing on the rostrum.

He also cited a recent statement to Turkish newspapers by Mortaki, which was viewed as threatening Turkey with economic sanctions. Mortaki reportedly said Iran would reduce its imports from Turkey because of the headscarf controversy.

Kandemir said the ambassador had been warned several times to refrain from such activities.

"After a thorough evaluation of this incident, and in view of the fact that ambassador could not act on his own initiative without instructions from his government, we have called our ambassador to Ankara for consultations and to assess the situation," he said.

Kandemir said prime ministers of the two countries had reached agreement in February, when Iranian Premier Hussein Musavi visited this country, to refrain from interference in the internal affairs of each other's country.

"We were hoping for compliance with this agreement," he said.

Asked whether and when the Turkish ambassador would return to Tehran, Kandemir said, "We cannot answer this yet. Let him come home first."

"We expect the friendly Iranian government to adopt a decision in accordance with our decision," Kandemir said when asked about the status of the Iranian envoy here.

Kandemir said Turkey remained neutral in the Gulf war and saw no reason why good relations with Iran should not continue.

He said Turkey "with the best of intentions and patience" had refrained from passing judgment on Iran's regime.

Efforts by the Iranians to spread their Islamic revolution in Turkey anger the majority of Turks who support the secularist system here based on Western laws.

Meanwhile bombs went off at the British Cultural Centre and inside a British diplomat's car in the Turkish capital of Ankara and at several business centres in Istanbul, causing damage but no casualties, police said Monday.

An anonymous caller to the Istanbul daily Cumhuriyet claimed responsibility for the blasts on behalf of an underground leftist organisation, Dev-Sol, or Revolutionary Left, in commemoration of an incident 10 years ago in which 10 terrorists were killed.

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Mountains of food sacks from the Soviet Union destined for the Afghan people are piling up near the Afghanistan border at the Oxus River. The Kabul government has not been able to ship the food because of fighting between Mujahideen rebels and government forces.

Kabul asks U.N. to help end war

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghanistan Monday called for an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss alleged Pakistani military aggression, and help find a peaceful solution to the civil war with the rebel Mujahideen.

Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil disclosed the request at a news conference before boarding a plane for New York.

Wakil said he was carrying a letter from Afghan President Najibullah informing U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar of Pakistani military intervention in Afghanistan.

"The aggression and the military intervention of Pakistan is increasing every day," he told reporters. Neighbouring Pakistan acknowledges arming and harbouring rebel fighters but denies direct involvement in the Afghan war.

Wakil said fighting was still going on around the provincial capital with the government force advancing on rebel positions.

According to the official Soviet news agency TASS quoted by Reuters, more than 500 Mujahideen rebels have been killed during five days of abortive attempts to capture Jalalabad.

TASS said Sunday that around 450 rebels were killed between March 29 and April 1, when rebels made repeated attacks under the cover of mortar and artillery fire.

The rebels, financed by the West with Pakistan serving as a conduit for the funds and arms they receive, have so far failed to flush out Afghan government troops entrenched in and around Jalalabad.

Wakil said the Afghan government was strong enough to withstand any rebel attack.

"We equip our army and enhance its capability every day," he said, his voice drowned by the roar of one of the many Soviet cargo planes flying in food and military supplies to Kabul.

The Soviet planes pump out a string of flares over the city to deflect any heat-seeking missiles from rebels in the snow-covered mountains ringing the Afghan capital.

"With the passage of every day, it becomes clear that it is impossible to topple this government through military means. Many more years will pass and this government will be here. The only solution is a peaceful one," Wakil said.

Wakil once again urged the U.S. government to change what he called its dogmatic approach to Kabul, offering to hold a dialogue with Washington on the situation.

He asked U.S. politicians to travel to Afghanistan.

"Maybe they (the U.S. government) nurture the aspiration that this government will fall. But the reality is that we exist and the government is operating."

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Parliament backs Mahdi peace moves

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese parliament Monday backed moves by Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi to end civil war in the south and accepted the withdrawal of plans for Islamic law. Members voted 129 to 23 in favour of Mahdi's announcement March 27 postponing plans to implement Sharia legislation until a national constitutional conference is held. The vote was seen as an important step in the prime minister's efforts to gain acceptance of a peace pact signed last year between the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The DUP is one of the main partners in his current coalition government. Only the National Islamic Front (NIF) voted against acceptance of Mahdi's statement. The front, which opposes the DUP-SPLA pact providing for the postponement of Sharia, is not part of the current government coalition.

Israel protests Canada's PLO talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Sunday summoned Canada's ambassador to Israel to protest Ottawa's decision to hold talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "We thought the Canadian decision was counter-productive for peace and would boost the power of intimidation of the PLO and would prevent... genuinely moderate Palestinians from coming forward," Netanyahu told reporters after meeting with Ambassador James K. Bartleman. "We think it also would encourage the PLO to believe that their goal of a Palestinian state is achievable," he said. "Such a state is a prescription not for peace but for a catastrophic war." Bartleman said the session was "constructive and friendly" and relations remained unaffected. Canada decided last week to upgrade ties with the PLO, and Ottawa's U.N. Ambassador Yves Fortier held his country's first senior-level contacts with the PLO.

Stoltenberg in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg arrived here Sunday for a two-day visit and said he expected Israel to honour its agreement on heavy water bought from Oslo 30 years ago. "Israel has got to honour its agreement in 1959 the same way it did in 1969," Stoltenberg told reporters at the Lod airport near Tel-Aviv. Heavy water for nuclear reactors can be used in making nuclear weapons, and Norwegian officials, including Defence Minister Johan Joergen Holst, have voiced suspicion that Israel has diverted some heavy water, or deuterium dioxide, for nuclear weapons production. Persistent foreign reports say Israel possesses as much as 100 nuclear weapons.

Riyadh calls meeting on Islam

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia plans a meeting of 45 Islamic states, including Iran, to discuss ways of dealing with threats to Islam, officials said Monday. Minister of Pilgrimage and Endowments Sheikh Abdul Wahhab Abdul Wasie will invite his counterparts from the 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to meet May 17 in Mecca. "All the members of the OIC are invited and that means Iran too," a government official contacted by telephone said. Saudi Arabia, which severed ties with Iran last April after a row triggered by religious differences, hosted similar meetings in 1979, 1989 and 1981. "The meeting is called to discuss ways of spreading the faith and combat atheistic factions and currents threatening the Muslim world," the official added. It is not known if Iran will attend but diplomats believe Tehran might use the opportunity to try and settle its dispute with Riyadh over the annual Muslim pilgrimage.

'Montazeri too gullible'

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper said Monday that the ayatollah who resigned last week as successor-designate to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had been too easily led astray by liberals and foreigners. "His weakness, and probably his biggest, was his credulity which, at times, led him to trust those who had something to tell him," the Tehran Times said in an editorial on the removal of Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri. The Iranian News Agency IRNA quoted the editorial as saying Montazeri's decisions were influenced by "liberals, nationalists, those residing abroad and their letters, media propaganda and international bodies such as Amnesty International." The newspaper said Khomeini, Iran's supreme leader, had time and again warned Montazeri to purge untrustworthy aides.

Saudis, British to cooperate

LONDON (AP) — Britain and Saudi Arabia agreed Sunday to work closely against terrorism, crime and drug trafficking, the Home Office announced. Home Secretary Douglas Hurd, visiting Saudi Arabia during a 10-day tour of the Gulf, signed a memorandum of understanding in Riyadh with Saudi Interior Minister Prince Ahmad Ibn Abdul Aziz. A Home Office spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British practice, said Hurd issued a statement to say he was "glad to carry out cooperation with Saudi Arabia into this new sphere."

Pollard on Israel's payroll

NEW YORK (AP) — Israel is paying \$5,000 a month to an American serving a life sentence in a U.S. prison for stealing U.S. government secrets for Israel, according to a published report. Each month \$5,000 is put in an Israeli bank account for former U.S. intelligence analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard, according to the April 10 issue of Newsweek magazine. Newsweek attributed the information to "Territory of Lies," a forthcoming book by Jerusalem Post correspondent Wulf Blitzer. Blitzer suggests Pollard eventually will make a deal to be deported to Israel, where he'll get the cash, but no intelligence work. "He'll get some money and probably even a nice apartment. But that's it," an unidentified Israeli official told Newsweek.

Moroccan minister in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Al Filali arrived Sunday on a three-day visit for talks with Syrian officials. Al Filali was welcomed at Damascus airport by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa, officials said. The visit is expected to normalise bilateral relations, which were restored in January after a 30-month break following mediation by Saudi Arabia.

Lull in fighting gives Beirutis chance to explore gas blast havoc

By Michael Kuli
Renter

BEIRUT — Thousands of Lebanese used lull in three weeks of battles Saturday to inspect havoc in their Beirut neighbourhood devastated by a butane gas tank explosion.

"My God, it looks like a hurricane has swept the area," said Joseph Harb, inspecting the ruins of the Dora district in east Beirut.

"Nothing is left, all what we worked for is gone now," the 50-year-old carpenter said, tears in his eyes.

Shells and rockets set petrol and kerosene tanks at the Dora fuel complex ablaze before the gas tank exploded last Thursday, injuring about 100 people. The blast was heard 45 kilometres from Beirut.

Over 100 people have died and about 400 have been injured since March 14 in battles — the worst fighting in five years — between mostly Falangist troops and opposition militiamen backed by Syrian gunners.

The heaviest artillery bom-

bardment since Thursday forced most people to spend Friday night in bomb shelters. It rained in the morning until only a few shells hit a Falangist-held coastal resort.

The U.N. Security Council said it supported Arab League efforts to end the fighting, which began after Army Commander Major-General Michel Aoun blocked ports that supply Lebanon's militias.

"The fire at the fuel depot is almost over and there is no chance now of another fire at any butane gas tank," said civil defence chief Elie Hunein.

"There is no danger to the public's safety and health," Lebanon's electricity authority said it had enough fuel for only three days, after which power would be cut across the country unless a ship carrying fuel was allowed to dock at Beirut port.

The port, controlled by Aoun's troops, has been shelled daily since bombardment started.

The authority, most of whose generating capacity is in Falangist held areas,

announced it would supply power only six hours a day.

In a statement broadcast on radio stations, Aoun urged the millions of Lebanese living abroad to rally the support of their host governments to help force Syrian and Israeli troops out of Lebanon.

"Your country is threatened by Israeli and Syrian occupation sharing its sovereignty," Aoun said. "Your country is calling you. Act quickly to support the cause of your country and save your people."

Hunein said all the gas released by the explosion had dispersed, so it was safe for the tens of thousands of residents who were evacuated hours before the blast to return.

"For four days we couldn't move or sleep fearing the explosion," remembered Harout Kherian. "It was like standing in front of a firing squad waiting to be shot at any minute."

"We were asked to leave after midnight when the rumbling started, sounding like a volcano about to erupt," he said.



A Lebanese family in their bomb shelter hiding from heavy artillery bombardment

"Some people carried their children and ran barefoot, patients from a nearby hospital fled in their white gowns holding plasma bags in one hand and bandages in the other."

"It was like the movies, with thousands of panic-stricken people running in all directions away from death," he said.

One environmental expert said Thursday's explosion produced a cloud of acid smoke covering about 140 square kilometres.

Doctor Pierre Malicbeve told Reuters Lebanon had set up a special office to monitor the effects of the cloud. A pall of black smoke covered

still blazing fuel tanks in Dora.

Aoun, who since last year has led a military government at odds with a civilian cabinet backed by Syria, said a week ago his troops would drive Syria's 40,000 troops out of Lebanon even if the battle flattened Beirut.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
17:00	Educational programme
17:30	Religious programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Programme on world news
18:20	Programme on children
19:10	Agricultural programme
19:45	Programme review
20:00	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:30	Arabic programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:40	Les Amers d'Illusion
19:00	News in French
19:15	Strausmeier
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
21:10	Hit Squad
21:30	Piece of Cake
22:00	News in English
22:20	Hunter
PRAYER TIMES	
03:50	Fair
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	

It will be warm and dry with north-westerly moderate winds. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly fresh winds and calm sea.		Dr. Muhsen Barqawi (—) Al Sharas' pharmacy (982)238		Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Electric Power Company 636381 RJ Flight Information 08-532000 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-52000		AQABA: Process Haya Hospital (03)314111	
Min/Max temp. Amman 10/22 Aqaba 15/28 Deserts 8/25 Jordan Valley 14/28		ZARQA: Dr. Suleiman Abu 'Adilieh (—) Khalifeh pharmacy 983417		HOSPITALS		FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.		EMERGENCIES Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341 Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 152, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade 6220093 Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 843402 Traffic Police 63639091 Public Security Department 650001 / 685111		AMMAN: Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Mathias, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shamsi 6641714 Shamsi Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Musharraf Hospital 66727/9 The Islamic, Abdali 66612/37 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6 Iranian, Al-Mubajir 771013 Al-Badr, J. Ashraf 775111/26 Army, Marka 891511/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital 674155		ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 04:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 06:55 Baghdad (RJ) 09:15 Barcelona, Athens (RJ) 09:15 Jeddah (RJ) 09:30 Cairo (RJ) 09:45 Aqaba (RJ) 09:50 Moscow, Dubai (RJ) 09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:00 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ) 10:30 Miami, Vienna (RJ) 10:50 Montreal, New York (RJ) 17:45 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 18:30 Athens, Istanbul (RJ) 19:00 Vienna (RJ)	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY LMMAN: Dr. Amin Abdul Jabbar 614222 Dr. Mohammad Al Hourani 850332 Dr. Suleiman Al Dabbousi 716751 Dr. Saleh Zayed 790677 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdows pharmacy 778336 Al Asema pharmacy 637035 Nasrallah pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shamsi pharmacy 637660		Hotel Complaints 605800 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467 Amman Municipality 781112 Telephone Information 781112 (directory assistance) 12 Overseas Calls 17 Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111		ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)971071 Don Sims Hospital (09)985732 IRBID: Princess Saada Hospital (02)272555 Catholic Hospital (02)272727 Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100			



CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES PAKISTANI TEAM: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday received a teacher and student delegation representing the Pakistani National Defence College currently on a visit to Jordan. During the meeting, Prince Hassan reviewed the situation in the region, cooperation between the Arab and Islamic countries, and bilateral relations (J.T.)



Hani Khasawneh

Khasawneh receives journalist

Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh had a meeting in his office Monday with American journalist Paul Bahankfort who is now on a tour of Jordan and other countries in the Middle East. The Ministry of Information prepared a tour programme for the American journalist to visit Palestinian refugee camps and cultural and archaeological sites in the Kingdom (Petra photo)

30 specialists meet to formulate national information policy

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A three-day seminar on national information policy in Jordan opened in Amman Monday with the participation of 30 information specialists, librarians, national policy-makers, planners and managers responsible for national information systems and services in the Kingdom.

The seminar is being organised by the Arab League's Documentation and Information Centre in cooperation with the information department of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

According to the organisers, the seminar aims to lay the ground for formulating a comprehensive national information policy in Jordan.

The participants will conduct an elaboration on the conceptual and operational framework to provide basis for information activities in Jordan in accordance with the nation's different development requirements, the organisers said.

The opening session was addressed by Dr. Adnan Badran, secretary general of the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST) who said that sound and appropriate decisions depend largely on the flow of information to planners and decision-makers.

He said that Jordan has realised the importance of information and its role, and has taken steps to establish a national information network.

In addition, Badran noted, the Ministry of Planning has laid the ground for a national information network to benefit the country's socio-economic schemes. Badran said that the HCST has given due attention to information and has taken steps to lay down a national strategy in this respect.

RSS representative at the meeting, Youssef Nuseir briefed the audience on the RSS's computer department's contribution to the national effort in providing information essential for scientific research and the transfer of technology.

Nuseir said that the seminar will hopefully come up with recommendations to help lay a firm ground for a national information policy that would serve the objectives of national development.

W. German tourists arrive in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A West German airliner carrying German tourists and journalists landed at Amman airport Monday marking the opening of a direct route between West Germany and Jordan.

A Ministry of Tourism spokesman said that the opening of a direct route is intended to bring in more West European tourists to the country. The flight is in accordance with a plan worked out by the Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with European tour operators. He said that tourist

groups can begin using this direct route as of Nov. 5, 1989.

The official said that the group will visit archaeological sites and tourist centres in the Kingdom during their visit. According to Tourism Minister Yamil Hikmat, the Ministry has made several arrangements for stimulating tourism in the country and bringing in groups from different parts of the world.

The minister said that the direct West German-Jordan route will be similar to that linking Aqaba with Finland.

Conference on hydatidosis opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Zuhair Malhas Monday opened a three-day conference on hydatidosis, a disease which largely affects the liver among communities in the Mediterranean region.

Malhas outlined to the delegates, who represent 14 countries

in the region, Jordan's efforts to deal with this disease. The minister said that medical treatment of the disease in Jordan rather than surgery yielded good results and pointed to good prospects for combating the disease which is common to humans and animals. Malhas underlined the importance of spreading health aware-

ness campaigns to help the public protect itself from the disease.

Dr. Hussein Abdul Razzaq Al Jaza'iri, who represented the World Health Organisation (WHO) at the opening session, reviewed in a speech the numerous elements which help to spread the disease in the Mediterranean region. He said that growing demand on meat and the increasing and expanding animal farm trade in the region have been instrumental in spreading the disease.

Jaza'iri stressed the need for sheep and cattle to be slaughtered in an orthodox manner and the meat to be kept under hygienic conditions to prevent any spread of the disease.

A total of 10 working papers are to be reviewed by the specialists who will also look into means of providing protection to the public and the prospect of adopting a unified strategy to combat the disease in all its aspects.

The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with WHO and the Athens-based Mediterranean Centre for Zoonotic Diseases.

New branch of Al Hussein Society

AMMAN (Petra) — A new branch of the Al Hussein Society for the Education of Children was opened in the Ashrafieh area in Amman Monday by Ministry of Social Development Secretary General Mohammad Al Saqour. During the ceremony, Saqour said the ministry had always sought to establish centres and institutions that care for children and members of society, offering them social services in an attempt to build a healthy society.

The head of the society, Mrs. Salwa Nour Al Din also spoke on the occasion and stressed the importance of providing more care facilities for needy children. She called on responsible parties to find the appropriate means of providing such projects and services in the service of the society's children.

The new branch offers health and housing facilities in addition to a comprehensive kindergarten for 30 children under the supervision of qualified and specialised nannies.

The society was established in 1972 following the merger of three institutions for the care of children, and contains three sections with kindergarten and preschool facilities and offers education guarantees in schools for 120 children up to 11 years of age.

Jordan to formulate national environment strategy

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) is to provide Jordan with specialists and expertise to help it work out a national strategy for protecting the environment in the Kingdom, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hammud announced Monday.

He said the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide \$383,000 while the treasury will provide JD 68,550 to finance the project.

The minister made the statement following a meeting by the higher steering committee involved in the preparation of a national Jordanian strategy for the conservation of nature and the protection of the environment in the Kingdom. He said the preparatory stage has been completed and the first steps towards the implementation of this strategy are being taken in cooperation with the IUCN in accordance with an agreement signed earlier with the Jordanian government.

Hammud said the strategy aims to enable the country to execute its socio-economic development projects and the exploitation of natural resources.

The environment strategy, the minister added, provides measures for the protection of water resources, the soil and atmosphere, and aims to maintain a natural balance and save the country from facing negative consequences as a result of its endeavours to exploit its natural resources.

Hammud referred to the Hague Declaration, a document signed in Holland last month by world leaders including His Majesty King Hussein. That declaration, he said, serves as a watchdog against pollution of the earth's atmosphere, an endeavour which Jordan has been pursuing with all its efforts in cooperation with concerned world organisations.

The minister noted that the national strategy, which was worked out over the past two years, entailed the collection and analysis of information pertaining to economic and social issues, natural resources and the general environment.

A comprehensive revision of the environment situation in Jordan will be carried out by the committee and a working plan will be worked out in the coming future, the minister pointed out.

Irbid marks Yarmouk Day

IRBID (Petra, J.T.) — Yarmouk Day celebrations were held near Irbid Monday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein and with the participation of students from Jordan and countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad, who deputised for the King at the celebrations, delivered an address referring to the importance of the Yarmouk battle in the history of the Arab and Islamic nations.

The celebrations commemorate the great Yarmouk battle in 636 when Islamic forces led by Khalid Ibn Al Walid beat a Byzantine force in the Yarmouk plains near Irbid.

The celebrations, which have been organised by Yarmouk Uni-



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday evening attends the last session of a human rights conference that concluded Sunday (Petra photo).

Princess Basma: Human rights should address basic needs of women, children

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma stressed the important role of women and children in the development process and said that the world's concern with human rights should be translated into providing education, health, humanitarian and social care for these two groups of citizens.

Addressing a conference on human rights in the Arab World Sunday evening, Princess Basma lauded the pioneering role of the Independent International Commission for Human Rights (IICHR) and said that the commission had added a new dimension to humanitarian thinking through studies and activities it carried out on human rights issues facing humanity. IICHR is co-chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan.

Princess Basma said the new international humanitarian order should be based on the basic principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and should correspond with people's hopes and aspirations. The new humanitarian order, which she said ought to be based on past achievements, should also tackle modern problems and should help in achieving those aspirations.

Princess Basma presented a number of facts pertaining to the operating mechanism of the new order such as goodwill and moral respect by individuals and government institutions of principles of the international order, stressing the important role of women in family and social life.

Her Royal Highness pointed to the importance of finding a common denominator in solving humanitarian issues in a brotherly and loving spirit, in addition to the appropriate preparation for women's role in the family and society.

Princess Basma also stressed the important role of education in polishing the thinking process of young society members as well as the right of future generations to formulate and develop their own rights and needs in addition to preserve modern accomplishments achieved by past generations for their existence and development.

The new humanitarian order, Princess Basma said, demands serious moves on the individual and group levels, and participation in the formulation of that order should be collective.

Princess Basma also stressed the important role by government and private institutions in setting an effective work approach for

dealing with humanitarian issues in accordance with a comprehensive vision that supports an individual's right to noble life.

Her Royal Highness also expressed her conviction that the international humanitarian order should fulfill a person's individual needs and respect collective society, treating all gaps to achieve peace and harmony for humanity at large through its handling of social, political, economic and humanitarian issues.

Also addressing the conference was Mrs. Leila Sharaf who noted that 40 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was issued, some countries still resort to torture and civil wars were still going on in various countries around the world. Dictatorships, political and natural disasters still afflicted

thousands of people in the world, Mrs. Sharaf noted.

Mrs. Sharaf stressed the importance of the birth of the international humanitarian order as a main point in the development of the human rights movement. The report by IICHR had determined the critical issues facing humanity, highlighting their vast ramifications to humanity. The commission had also studied problems of increased populations, environmental dangers, poverty, under development, world armament, terrorism in addition to drug problems.

Mrs. Sharaf pointed out that the report had suggested a number of policies in addition to mechanism for implementing these policies for the sake of saving humanity and preserving human rights in all its ramifications.

Princess Basma battalion celebrates anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — The Princess Basma Third Mechanised Battalion Monday celebrated its 47th anniversary. Senior officers from the battalion, led by its commander, attended the celebrations which included exercises with live ammunition, a display of military equipment and sports activities. The commander later distributed awards to the troops.

Voluntary workers complete course

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fifty leaders from twenty voluntary organisations and the Ministry of Social Development were awarded certificates for completing three weeks of training sponsored by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and funded through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Minister of Social Development Fawaz Touqan presented diplomas to the graduates. Abdallah Khatib, director general of GUVS; Roscoe S. Suddarth, the United States ambassador to Jordan; and Lewis P. Reade, director of USAID spoke at the ceremony.

'No further devaluation of dinar'

Anani expects economy to stabilise by 1991

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A senior Jordanian economist said current economic difficulties in Jordan will force the country towards privatisation and refuted rumours of a fresh devaluation of the Jordanian dinar.

"In the light of the crisis, the Jordanian government will not be able to continue the spending levels of the 1980s and will retreat to a supervisory role in the country's economy," said Jawad Anani, director general of the Royal Jordanian Scientific Society (RSS) at a lecture Sunday night.

The government will be forced to "a dramatic restructuring of the public sector, giving the private sector those institutions found unprofitable and inactive," said Anani who formerly held the portfolios of economy and commerce, and labour.

The lecture was part of a Jordanian week organised in Abu Dhabi in quest of investments from

the oil-rich United Arab Emirates.

Refuting rumours that the International Monetary Fund will press for devaluation after that of October, Anani said: "The IMF will not ask Jordan to further reduce the price of the dinar, because there is no difference between its exchange rate against the dollar in the black market and that of the Central Bank."

Anani attributed the country's economic difficulties to pressures of foreign loans now reaching \$6 billion.

"Jordan has to pay this year \$1.2 billion and has to pay the same amount next year, but pressure will be reduced in 1991 if these commitments were paid," he said.

He conceded that "the luxury" enjoyed in Jordan over the past 10 years "does not exist now, due to the imposed restrictions on purchases of foreign currencies and on imports."

Jordan now had to re-distribute responsibilities between public and the private sectors, he said, adding that government will reduce jobs and improve efficiency of tax collection.

"Instead of increasing the salary of a person, let us improve another member of the same family with a job," Anani said.

He said 80 per cent of Jordan's income of foreign currencies derived from remittances of Jordanian expatriates working mainly in the oil-rich Gulf region, while the rest was in the form of direct Arab aid, especially petrodollar aid from the Gulf Arab states.

Anani expected an improvement in the Jordanian economy because remittances of Jordanians abroad were expected to reach \$1 billion annually by 1991. By then he expected Jordanian exports of phosphate to bring in \$200 million, fertilizers, \$200 million and potassium \$400 million.

Jordan imports West Bank olive oil

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan is allowing olive oil imports from the Israeli-occupied West Bank because its own olive farmers have now sold their crop, an official said.

Agriculture Ministry Undersecretary Salem Lawzi told Reuters that, for two months from March 25, Amman would allow in 2,540 tonnes of West Bank olive oil and 616 tonnes of pickled olives.

"This comes under the title of family gifts, but in practice it can be distributed on the local market," he said. "There is no problem for our local farmers now because all their oil has been sold or consumed."

Previously Jordan allowed visitors from the West Bank to bring only two 16-kilogramme cans of oil across the Jordan River bridges as gifts to relatives in the Kingdom.

In Nablis, Khaled Quib, secretary of the West Bank Agricultural Union, said most individuals would now assign their rights to commercial shippers.

"We've been talking about it with the Jordanians for some time and now we've received approval," he told Reuters.

"In previous years the Jordanian government bought our olive oil for official and military consumption. Now it will be sold on the private market."

Quib said West Bank producers were also negotiating with an Italian company to sell 6,000 tonnes of olive oil for re-export.

He said sales to Jordan and the Italian deal, if finalised, would raise prices and ease pressures on growers, who had great difficulty selling this year's bumper crop.

An Italian diplomat in Amman

said Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti assured Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in December of his country's willingness to buy West Bank olive oil as a gesture of support for people in the territory.

West Bank farmers had a surplus of around 20,000 tonnes of olive oil, their main cash crop, after last year's harvest.

Jordan, which consumes around 15,000 tonnes a year, produced 10,000 tonnes to add to 5,000 tonnes already in stock.

Emirates signs \$70m loan agreement with UAE bank

DUBAI (J.T.) — Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, has signed a \$70 million loan agreement with Emirates Bank International Ltd. to finance the purchase of a new Airbus A300-600R aircraft.

The agreement was signed by Sheikh Ahmad bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman of Emirates, and chairman of Emirates Bank International Ahmad Humaid Al Tayer, UAE minister of state for financial and industrial affairs.

The new aircraft, one of four extended-range A300-600Rs on order by Emirates, is due for delivery in May.

Emirates, which was launched in October, 1985 with just three destinations, now flies from Dubai to a network of 12 destinations in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe, and has recently won yet another international award, this time from the German travel magazines Check In and Industrie Travel Magazin.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * An exhibition entitled "The Tachingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Mu'ta University.
- * A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting various aspects of life in China at the University of Jordan.
- * An art exhibition by Iraqi artist Basim Al Sheikh which includes paintings depicting Jordanian costumes through ages and modern views of Amman at Philadelphia Hall.
- * A book exhibition displaying British books on the Islamic world at the University of Jordan.
- * An art exhibition by Salma Hamad Al Thani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A photography exhibition by Ritham Jweinat at the Professional Associations Complex.

LECTURE

- * A lecture by Dr. Kamil Asad entitled "Gustaf Dahman and his Monumental Work on Palestine" at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

FILMS

- * Portrait of America - Maine - at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- * A Spanish film entitled "Rouges", shown as part of the Spanish Film Week, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

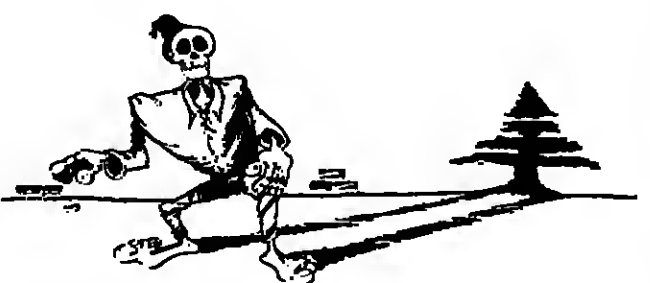
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Jordan Times Advertising Department.

A question of priorities

GETTING into specifics about a peace treaty between Israel and the Arab side before agreeing to hold the projected international peace conference on the Middle East can be tantamount to putting the cart before the horse. It would be much more functional and viable to agree to the convening of such a conference on the basis of relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and with the participation of all the directly concerned Arab parties including the PLO rather than indulge at this stage in informal negotiations about the contents of any possible resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and any of its envisioned stages in advance of convening the international conference. Clearly there are many dangers in trying to spell out in minute details the mechanics and substance of an Arab-Israeli agreement before there is a commitment by all parties to hold the conference under the aegis of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. If the parties involved in the search for a durable and just settlement of all the dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict allow themselves to drift into such an early informal negotiations, they would not only prolong the process of peace more than necessary but can also torpedo the existing good chances of convening an international conference.

With all such reservations in mind, one cannot comprehend fully why Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is taking to Washington a detailed outline of a "settlement" between his country and the Palestinian side especially when the features of such a plan have been rejected over and over again by the Arab side. For on the basis of news reports, Shamir's ideas are nothing but mines or booby traps in the path of holding an international conference. The Arab side and the international community have already taken due notice of Shamir's rejection of the international conference idea and the prospect of talking to the PLO. Would it be safe to conclude, therefore, that all that Shamir is interested in is to sabotage the growing consensus in favour of the conference idea? Would it not be more functional and operational if Washington and in turn Israel could agree to negotiations with the Arab parties under the U.N. umbrella and on the basis of the agreed upon principles and U.N. resolutions? The time to spell out the detailed aspects of the sought after equitable and permanent peace agreement between Israel and Arabs should be after the formal negotiations get under way within the context of the international peace conference not before.



Waleed — Al Dustour

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Monday commented on the economic situation in the Kingdom by stressing that the financial and monetary situation is sound, contrary to hostile rumours. The paper noted that the government was going ahead with economic plans with great confidence and that subsidies on basic commodities will be maintained. The paper also quoted the finance minister as saying that the economic, monetary and financial measures, engineered by the government a few months ago, are now bearing fruit and steering the economy in the right course. Al Ra'i cautioned the public against heeding hostile rumours designed to cause harm to the country and its prestige. It said that the Kingdom has already transcended the difficult period; and it is the national duty of all members of the public to work with all possible and available potentials to maintain the economic momentum and move towards a new era of production and less consumption and less spending.

Al Dustour daily newspaper commented on the situation in Lebanon and the widening of the circle of fighting and bloodshed. The paper noted that the fighting is causing the greatest damage to residential areas, and killing civilian rather than military personnel, regardless of their political affiliation and their religion. It is a pitiful situation for the civilians of the embattled country which is witnessing a total destruction by its own people and untold sufferings inflicted on innocent women and children, the paper noted. The only hope for Lebanon, now that all mediation efforts failed, is for the Arab League to take practical steps to end the bloodshed and stop the destruction of an Arab capital, the paper added. It said that the Lebanese leaders should realise the seriousness of the situation and work hand in hand with the six-member Arab League committee to find a formula that would end the war.

Sawt Al Shaab daily paper commented in an editorial on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to the United States and said that the visit is accompanied by a propaganda campaign in the Israeli press which is striving to show that Shamir is seeking a genuine peace. At the same time, the Israeli authorities are taking further steps to escalate their repressive measures against the Palestinians under their control, the paper said. It said that Shamir has no credibility at all, and can by no means decide the American public. Against Shamir and his press, the paper noted, stands the uprising of the Palestinian people backed by the Arab Nation which has proved to the whole world that it is truly oriented towards the attainment of a just peace.

Shamir faces U.S. pressure to present new peace ideas

By Howard Goller
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, facing U.S. pressure to present new proposals for Middle East peace, hopes to satisfy American leaders in Washington this week without making major concessions.

The 73-year-old leader, visiting Israel's closest ally for the first time since the Bush administration took office, aims to counter diplomatic gains built by the PLO after Chairman Yasser Arafat's Geneva declarations.

No one expects a showdown since Washington regards Israel as its best friend and chief strategic ally in the region.

But President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker have told Shamir bluntly they want to hear new ideas when they meet him Wednesday and Thursday.

The hardline Shamir and his aides have tried to lower any expectations of a breakthrough but acknowledge a need to move Arabs and Israelis towards negotiations.

In press interviews, they have revealed glimpses of new proposals including local elections in the

occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, an idea already rejected by the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Cabinet Secretary Eliyahu Rubinstein said: "I don't want to sound mysterious or something, but I think it's just more appropriate that the contents of what the prime minister is going to say be left to Washington."

Shamir has said that, conditional on an end to the uprising against Israeli occupation of the occupied territories, his plan would involve:

— Letting Palestinians elect representatives for peace talks.

— Allowing both superpowers to mediate in the talks, once Moscow restored ties severed over the 1967 Middle East war.

— Withdrawing Israeli army from mainly Arab towns to barracks, an idea included in Israel's 1978 Camp David peace accords with Egypt.

The proposals are aimed at engaging Palestinians under occupation in dialogue, circumventing the PLO and avoiding an international Middle East peace conference.

Israeli security officials and

Western diplomats are equally sceptical at the chances of the proposals achieving their objectives.

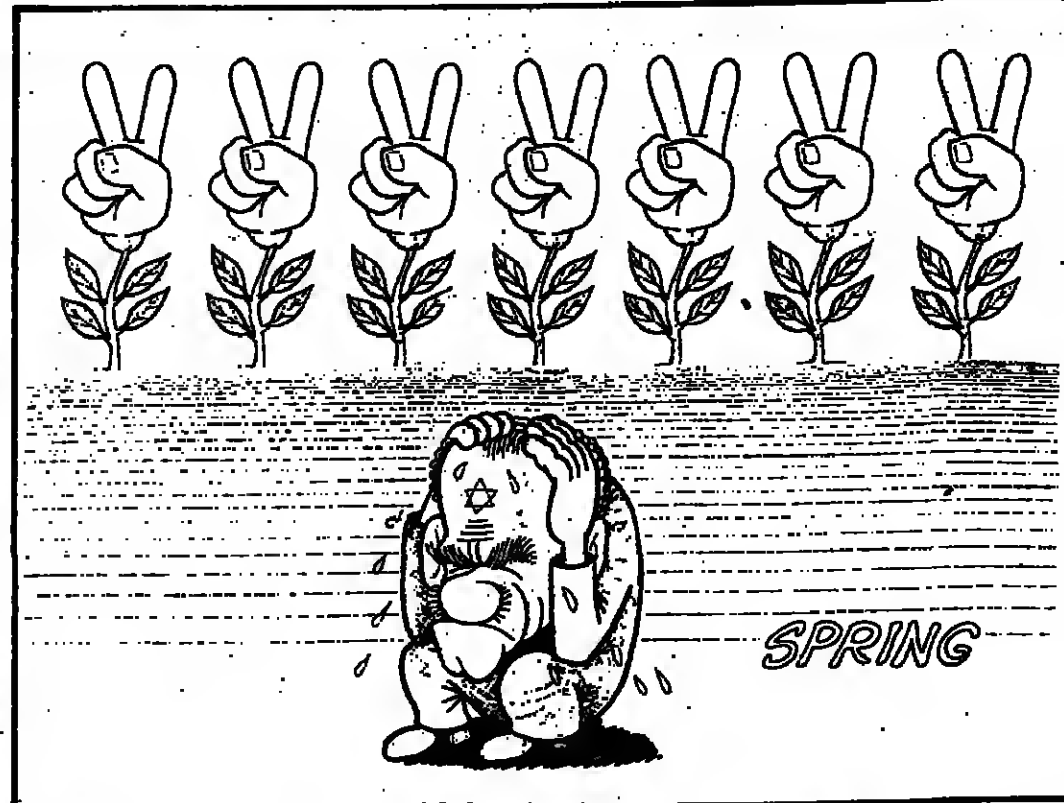
Israeli sources said the Bush administration might press Israel to accept talks with the PLO and an international conference unless Shamir put forward a worthy alternative.

Shamir regards talks with the PLO as a certain prelude to a Palestinian state bent on Israel's destruction. He believes an international conference would try to force an unacceptable solution on Israel.

Some Western diplomats said Washington might be able to persuade the PLO to accept elections under occupation but Israel would have to accept that those elected might be linked to the PLO.

The idea resembles a ceasefire proposal floated briefly by some pro-PLO leaders of the uprising three months ago but quickly squashed by the PLO.

Shamir's visit will be sandwiched between those of the two leading Arab leaders — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who sees Bush Monday, and King Hussein, due in Washington on



April 19.

Shamir hopes to repair a friendship jolted in December when Washington opened talks with the PLO after its leader, Yasser Arafat, pledged to renounce terrorism and recognise Israel's right to exist.

"Our confidence was shattered by the American decision to con-

duct a dialogue with the PLO and the way it was done without consultation with Israel," Yossi Ben-Aharon, director-general of the prime minister's office, told Reuters.

"It will take work, mutual trust and close exchanges in order to restore the confidence that is

necessary and even vital toward achieving stability and peace."

Israel, isolated worldwide, is itself divided. Opinion polls and local election results show Shamir and his right-wing Likud Party have never been stronger. But they also show most Israelis disagree with his refusal ever to talk to the PLO.

Experts forecast rising demand for Middle East oil

By Kevin Costelloe
and
George Boehmer
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, West Germany — More than 15 years after an Arab-led oil embargo stunned the West, non-Communist industrialised countries have slashed reliance on OPEC supplies. But experts warn that demand for Middle East oil appears certain to increase.

That, along with a recent upward trend in oil prices, is a source of concern for the West. And Third World countries also will be making greater demands on world energy supplies as they push development.

"Unless there are major additions to reserves and major discoveries of new oil fields outside the Gulf region, the world's reliance on the Middle East for oil is bound to rise," says Helga Steeg, executive director of the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA).

"The energy security implications are obvious," she added in a February speech. "Oil will continue long into the next century to be the most important single source of energy."

The IEA estimates 60 per cent

of the world's known recoverable petroleum reserves are in the Gulf region.

George Kowalski, an IEA economic analyst, predicts growing demand for oil will push up prices in the 1990s, although the hikes will not be excessive. He said officials need to maintain awareness that supply disruptions are possible that could lead to sharp price increases over the short term.

For now, the energy outlook is comforting for Western industrialised nations and Japan, which increasingly have tapped other energy sources to cut reliance on petroleum. An oil glut also has helped keep prices down.

Overall, the 24 industrialised countries making up the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development — primarily Western European nations, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States — cut their reliance on OPEC oil from 71.7 per cent of imports in 1979 to 47.6 per cent in 1987.

Big cuts

IEA figures show that individual cuts in OECD imports of oil and related products from the 13-member Organisation of Pet-

roleum Exporting Countries have been dramatic over that period:

— Australia, 220,000 barrels a day to 130,000 barrels a day.

— Japan, 4.7 million to 3 million.

— West Germany, 1.8 million to 960,000.

— Britain, 1.1 million to 280,000.

— United States, 6.4 million to 3.5 million.

The reduction is due to several

"Since the oil shocks of the early 1970s, Americans have enjoyed a 35 per cent rise in the gross national product without increasing their energy consumption," said an article last year in Scientific American magazine. "The main reason is that the services energy can provide — comfort, mobility, a cold beer on a hot day — are generated much more efficiently today than they were back in 1973."

'Between now and the early years of the next century, the developing countries' share of total world energy demand is expected to rise from 17 per cent to about 22 per cent.'

Big saving

The article added that conservation is saving the United States about \$150 billion per year.

Other factors, including oil production within the OECD, also have helped Japan and the Western industrialised nations.

West Germany, for example, received 179.4 million barrels of North Sea oil in 1987, up from 169.3 million barrels the year

before, according to the European Economic Community.

But North Sea supplies are expected to decline to 2.2 million barrels a day this year, down from 2.4 million last year, and are expected to run out within 30 to 50 years.

That and other factors make the Middle East a focus of concern, despite the current oil glut.

The Arab-led oil embargo of 1973-74 more than doubled the price of crude oil from \$5.09 to \$11.60 a barrel. In 1979, a relatively short interruption of Iranian exports caused oil prices to rise by 160 per cent.

OPEC has been trying hard to raise prices. The average price of a basket of crudes monitored by the organisation reached \$17.50 a barrel in the week ending March 25, up more than \$5 from late November.

Increased demand

"Dependence on OPEC oil will increase by the end of the century if no new energy sources are found," Cologne University energy expert Ronald Heuer said.

"But energy demands also will increase as Third World countries develop. The Third World countries — China for instance — has

a huge gap to catch up to developed nations in the next century," he said.

Ms. Steeg agrees: "Between now and the early years of the next century, the developing countries' share of total world energy demand is expected to rise from 17 per cent to about 22 per cent."

The OECD countries used 31.5 million barrels of oil per day in 1973, compared with 29.72 million barrels daily in 1987, but demand is expected to rise 1.6 per cent this year. Consumption peaked in 1979 at just under 33 million barrels per day.

Japan's Agency of Natural Resources and Energy said that despite energy improvements, the nation still received a hefty 67.6 per cent of its oil imports from the Middle East last year.

OPEC member Libya provided West Germany with 7.5 million barrels of crude oil in January, edging out longtime leader Britain as the country's top supplier.

Most experts point out that non-Communist industrialised nations are far better prepared for any oil interruptions now than in the 1970s. That includes a required 90-day minimum reserves in all IEA member countries.

Turkish fundamentalists making political gains

By Victor L. Simpson
The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Encouraged by a loosening of the military's hand and with help from neighbouring Iran, Islamic fundamentalists are gaining confidence and making political inroads in Turkey.

In last week's nationwide local elections, the Prosperity Party, a fundamentalist political organisation, won 10 per cent of the vote and captured more mayors than Premier Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party.

Prosperity, barred from running in local elections five years ago, shot up from 7.5 per cent of the vote it won in the 1987 general elections.

Fundamentalism is an extremely delicate issue in this country which, although overwhelmingly Islamic, has maintained a secular system decreed by Kemal Ataturk, founder of the modern Turkish republic, in the 1920s.

While few see any dangers of an Islamic revolution of the type that swept Iran, there is concern that religious extremists could disrupt Turkey's plans of integrating with Western Europe.

Prosperity, for example, opposes Turkey's membership in the Atlantic alliance and Turkey's bid to join the European Economic Community. It says that with EEC membership "We would lose our Muslim identity in the sea of infidels."

Turkey's powerful generals, who have considered it their duty to defend the Ataturk tradition, cracked down on the fundamentalists after seizing power in a coup in 1980.

A new constitution drawn up before they handed back power to civilians in 1983 expressly bans Islamic law, or Sharia, that the fundamentalists had been demanding.

But during their rule of three years, the military did nothing to stop the mushrooming of religious schools and the proselytising by several fundamentalist sects. The generals apparently wanted Islam as an antidote to leftist ideologies that had spawned the wave of terrorism in the 1970s.

The issue of fundamentalism took a critical turn during the election campaign when the constitutional court forbade female students from wearing traditional Muslim headcoverings on university campuses.

Hundreds of students and their supporters staged demonstrations in Turkey's major cities. Some of the protesters wore black head-to-toe chadors.

Premier Ozal, who combines devotion to Islam with westward yearnings, expressed sympathy with the students' demands.

Amid rumours that the military was growing increasingly impatient, Turkey's top general, Necip

Toruntay, took the unusual step of declaring the army's loyalty to Turkish democracy.

Turkey has been angered by Iranian protests over the court ban on headcoverings. It has warned Iran not to meddle in its internal affairs.

In retaliation, Iran has threatened to reduce its imports from Turkey, according to a report Monday in the English-language Turkish Daily News quoting unidentified treasury officials.

Turkey has been hoping to get a share of reconstruction contracts in Iran following the cease-fire last August that ended eight years

of war with Iraq.

Turkey also recently expressed displeasure over the spreading of Iranian religious pamphlets by Iran's consul general in the city of Erzurum, in Turkey's rural east near the Iranian border.

In that area, the Prosperity Party won about 20 per cent of the vote in some cities.

"The headcovering issue is being used as a springboard to an Islamic revolution. It won't remain there but will spring to other issues as well," Ahmet Yucekok, a political science professor and a leading authority on religion in Turkey, said in a recent interview with Gunes newspaper.

building of new mosques, mosque attendance and the number of religious schools. The majority of Muslims in Turkey are Sunni, as opposed to Shi'ites in Iran.

Gencay Saylan, the author of a book on Islamic revival, attributed the strong showing by the Prosperity Party both to the furor over the headcovering controversy as well as general discontent with Ozal's Motherland Party.

"Some of that vote usually goes to the large conservative parties in general elections," he said. "This election is a real breakthrough for them (Prosperity)," he said in a telephone interview.

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West Bankers sell more but profit less

By Gail Fitzer
Reuter

RAMALLAH — An upsurge of Arab nationalism in Israeli-occupied territories is proving a God-send for many Palestinian manufacturers whose goods now sell like hot cakes.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip who once rushed to buy Israeli goods, convinced they were superior, now leave them on the shelf.

On orders from the underground leaders of the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising, they are buying "national products" wherever possible.

Arab shopowners who sell Israeli goods are threatened, their stores sometimes burned down.

Gone are the days when Palestinian manufacturers used to put Hebrew labels on their goods to sell them to their own people. They are now snowed under with demand.

"We were not selling anything before the uprising. There was a general feeling among the Palestinians that Israeli products were better," said George Khoury, one of the owners of Kanim Company, a manufacturer and distributor of cleaning products.

"Now people are trying our products and they are finding the

quality is as good and they are even cheaper," he told reporters.

Khouri said his sales had soared by 30 to 40 per cent since the revolt began. Other manufacturers report rises of up to 50 per cent.

Palestinians make a host of products, including clothing, shoes, furniture, cigarettes, plastics, milk products and medicines.

Israeli exports to the occupied territories slumped to \$600 million last year from \$900 million in 1987, official figures show.

Standard of living falls

But while the uprising has given Palestinians the chance to break into their own market, the daily violence that has killed more than 400 people has depressed the economy as a whole.

The standard of living in the occupied territories has fallen by between 30 and 40 per cent amid protests and shootings.

Curfews imposed by the army, often lasting days, prevent Palestinian store-owners from making sales and result in bouncing cheques for manufacturers.

They are forced into overdraft, paying high interest to Israeli banks until shopowners are able to make payment.

Israel doubles taxes
Some companies add that

Israeli tax authorities, in their economic crackdown on the uprising, have doubled their taxes.

Employers also pay workers full salaries even during general strikes called by the uprising's leaders.

Muzin Shahib, public relations manager of the Sinokrot Food Company, said employees were working an average of 12 days a month compared to 26 days before the uprising.

"Our sales have gone up, but our profits will go down," said Shahib. "The strikes are a problem. Sometimes stores go bankrupt and we can't collect our money. Sometimes workers need more money because of the situation and we must pay."

But Sinokrot's sales have risen 20 per cent and Shahib, in his plush office in Ramallah's industrial zone, added: "The intifada (uprising) is a good thing for Arab companies and factories."

Sinokrot has captured a market of candy-coated chocolates in the occupied territories, once dominated by Israel's top chocolate company, Elite. It cannot meet demand for some of its products, Shahib said.

Some manufacturers have lost business in Israel as Jewish businesses stop ordering because of the uprising. Serop Obannesian, owner of a factory that makes paper products, said sales



Palestinian woman at work in the Abasan biscuit factory in Gaza

in Israel had dropped 30 per cent.

Israelis impersonate Palestinians

He added that his diaper line went out of business five months ago because it could not compete with an Israeli selling under Arabic names to pretend they were Palestinian.

"We were very badly hurt. The consumer thinks it is a Palestinian West Bank product while (the Israeli manufacturer) is laughing his head off in Israel," he said.

But Obannesian plans to bounce back with new diapers — and an advertising campaign trumpeting that they are the only ones made in the West Bank.

Deformed birds show impact of pollution on Great Lakes

By Andrew Stern
Reuter

CHICAGO — Airborne pollutants in North America's great lakes are causing freakish, often fatal, deformities among several types of water bird, environmentalists say.

Researchers are finding unusually high numbers of terns, cormorants and herons in the Great Lakes region born with abnormalities including crossed beaks and organs that develop outside the body.

The Sierra Club, a major private U.S. environmentalist group, recently issued findings from Michigan State University researchers that linked the chemicals found in the eggs of waterfowl to the congenital deformities.

Wildlife nearer to the top of the food chain, including eagles, otters and minks that eat contaminated fish, are also being poisoned, according to scientists and environmental experts from various organisations and government agencies.

They say the species are gradually disappearing from around the lakes because the toxic chemicals suppress their reproductive cycles.

The immediate threat to humans from toxic poisons in the great lakes — the source of drinking water for 30 million people — comes primarily from eating fish.

Most states in the region issue guidelines about the maximum amount of specific fish which can be consumed on a weekly or monthly basis.

And there are fears about the "ultimate harmful affects of the odourless, tasteless and invisible poisons that lace the lakes on people who rely on the world's largest collective body of fresh water."

A study conducted a decade ago on the children of women who had eaten significant amounts of fish from Lake Michigan found babies did not respond well to stimulus and had other developmental problems.

Until fairly recently, it was widely believed that the Great Lakes had become cleaner with the improvement of sewage treatment throughout the region.

Even algae-choked Lake Erie, which scientists declared "dead" more than a decade ago because the nutrients from raw sewage had spawned unrestrained plant growth, cleared up enough so that Cleveland beaches could be reopened.

But accumulation of chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, in the water, plants, fish and other wildlife is now recognised as a potentially more serious, longer term problem.

"There's less sewage but more poison," said the Sierra Club's Great Lakes federal policy director Jane Elder. "Fish are back, birds are back, the basic components of life are there. The question is: can we sustain it?" she told reporters.

PCBs, which have been used in a variety of industries, are now banned in many countries.

They generally do not mix with water but accumulate in organic

material. The poisons build up in sediments and micro-organisms in lake beds in fatty tissues of fish, thus climbing the food chain.

Elder said the Great Lakes pollution, could need a multi-billion dollar "underwater superfund" programme to clean up. In Minnesota, monitors discovered that some rainfalls and snowfalls last year violated environmental protection agency water quality standards for mercury, a chemical that causes birth defects and, when broken down, is water soluble.

Studies of more isolated areas of the Great Lakes show that while industrial dumping into the lakes has been significantly reduced, chemicals dispersed from old dump sites and then carried by "toxic rain" — a variation on the "acid rain" problem — may pose a wider, even global threat.

"We bear a lot about the greenhouse affect and the ozone problem, but not a lot about air toxics," said Cameron Davis, a researcher with the Lake Michigan Federation, one of several groups dedicated to cleaning up the lakes.

A Sierra Club report last May entitled, "sweet water: bitter rain," outlined the risk of airborne pollutants. It pointed to the presence of pesticides such as DDT, banned years ago in the United States, in lake superior, fish, which Elder said could mean the deadly chemical was being carried thousands of miles from Mexico and Central America.

Some scientists believe winds carry chemicals to the Great Lakes from as far away as Asia.

The tsetse meets its match

By Sid Kane

THE Rift Valley in southwest Kenya is a vast area characterised by long stretches of dry grasslands, high plateaus and by small hands of Masai herdsman who glance curiously at passing cars as they tend their livestock beneath the hot African sun.

This is Masai country. Once you leave Kajiado and head west in the direction of Lake Magadi (misnamed, for it is only a large, dry salt bed), few signs of life are to be seen anywhere. Now and then one passes a herd of zebras or giraffes, or a manya, a small Masai village, with its inevitable corral. Little else interrupts the semi-arid landscape except for the Masai's herds of Zebu cattle and goats, which move slowly across the plain.

These domestic animals are of great importance to the Masai. Aside from providing essential meat and milk, they are a source of cash income, and their ownership bestows social status as well. It is for these reasons that the Masai have labelled the tsetse fly an arch enemy, as have other owners of livestock throughout much of sub-Saharan Africa.

Around the turn of the century, the fly was identified as carrying the dreaded parasites that cause African trypanosomiasis, a disease that induces anemia and often leads to death in humans as well as livestock.

Among humans, the affliction is commonly referred to as sleeping sickness. In livestock it is known as nagana. While sleeping sickness is not often reported in Kenya, only a few years ago farmers in the area of the Nguruman Escarpment, 50 kilometres west of Lake Magadi, lost nearly half their cattle on account of nagana. Even though only one in a hundred flies carries the parasites, their distinctive buzzing sound for the Masai has long been synonymous with danger.

But Masai villagers are now involved in an inventive control programme that has given them good reason to believe that the danger is waning. Since 1983, the Nairobi-based International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) has trapped millions of flies in a 150 square kilometres test area in the Nguruman region.

The cloth traps, which have conical-shaped roofs and measure about 1.25 metres high by 1 metre wide, look like harmless, brightly coloured miniature tents from a distance. But harmless they are not. Each one is capable of capturing thousands of tsetse flies in a single afternoon. "We have been making life increasingly complex for the tsetse," says Dr. Thomas Odhiambo, who founded

ICIPE in 1970 with the aim of developing alternative insect control strategies and alleviating human hunger in Africa. Since its inception, the centre has received over \$22 million in funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Meat production effected

One-third of Africa's land mass is home to the tsetse fly. According to the World Health Organisation, a major outbreak of human sleeping sickness at the beginning of the century killed nearly a half million people along the northern shores of Lake Victoria. The disease later raged through western Kenya, southern Sudan and central Tanzania. Today, it is estimated that 25,000 Africans are infected each year, with the majority of cases occurring in Uganda and Zaire. If it weren't for nagana, an additional 1.5 million tons of meat would be produced in Africa annually — meat that would go a long way towards curbing hunger on a continent where protein is in short supply.

In the past, drastic measures have been tried in an effort to wipe out tsetse populations. In South Africa's Zululand and in parts of Uganda, all animals that the fly feeds on were killed in an attempt to eliminate their food source. Entire forests in Nigeria were cleared to destroy their habitat. Harmful pesticides have been sprayed over infested areas, a strategy still in some use today. All options fell far short of a solution. "Each was destructive, causing negative long-term ecological consequences," says Odhiambo.

While the tsetse has turned out to be a more complex and cunning foe than was once anticipated, scientists are talking about controlling the growth of the pests, and even ridding them from areas populated by people and livestock.

Scientists at ICIPE say that their strategy of trapping large numbers of tsetse flies is both environmentally safe and promising for the future. "We are looking for a long-term solution," says Dr. Leonard Otieno, leader of the Tsetse Research Programme at ICIPE. "Spraying works, but within two or three months the flies are back. We have also been honing in on the behaviour of the tsetse and finding out such things as where they mate and where they lay their larvae."

While tsetse traps are not exactly new, two improvements in their design being introduced by ICIPE have markedly enhanced their performance, resulting in a

99 per cent reduction of the tsetse population in the control area since 1987. Experiments by a French scientist, Albert Chailier, showed that the flies are attracted to certain colours. Additional research revealed that they respond to scents as well. "Initially the flies are attracted by the odour of cow urine, which we chemically reproduce and place in a tin beside the trap," says Dr. Robert Dransfield, a senior research scientist at ICIPE who is working on the Nguruman project. "Then they are drawn closer by the blue and black colours of the trap's walls."

Once they are lured inside the traps, the flies travel up through a narrow opening towards sunlight. Instead of finding freedom however, they become caught in a polythene bag on the trap's roof, and die of heat exposure in minutes.

At Nguruman, 221 traps were deployed in the kind of terrain that the tsetse likes to call home: a habitat typified by savannah woodlands and dry bush vegetation. As a measure of the degree of tsetse infestation in the area before the programme began, each trap, at the start, was catching about 5,000 flies per week. Now, the catch is down to about 20 flies a week as the size of the tsetse population has been progressively reduced.

One local farmer recalls that before the traps were introduced, his cows were constantly agitated, always on the run from the fly's nasty bite. As a result, they wouldn't stop to feed for very long, and therefore couldn't produce milk. Now, he says, his cows are calmer, milk is being produced at normal levels, and farmers in the control area aren't losing any livestock due to nagana, a sharp contrast to just a few years ago.

Ambitious project

While this pleases Dransfield, he acknowledges that achieving successful results in the test area is a far cry from bringing control to the rest of Africa. "The idea is to reclaim infested land from the tsetse fly and then to prevent their reinfestation," he says, sounding more like a military field commander than a research scientist.

Preventing reinfestation means constructing a "barrier wall" of traps around reclaimed territory, positioning each one approximately 100 metres apart. The question remains: is it feasible to extend trap barriers over millions of kilometres of tsetse-infested Africa? No one has that ambitious a plan in mind, says Dransfield. "It will be more of a patchwork approach, where tsetse control is advantageous and necessary."

Along with reclaiming infested land from the tsetse at Nguruman, the field operation has

helped ICIPE to better understand the fly's behaviour and to build a computerised population model of the pest. The database will play an important part in adapting the control campaign to other tsetse-infested areas. "You have to know your population before you can predict and control it," says Odhiambo, a recent winner of the Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger, which is awarded by the U.S.-based Hunger Project.

If there were only one species of tsetse fly, compiling a profile and mapping a control strategy would be relatively simple. But there are at least 21 different species, each with its own behaviour pattern and genetic makeup. Certain species feed on water hogs, while others favour domestic animals. Some carry parasites that afflict only humans. Others infect only livestock. A small percentage of tsetse flies do not enter the traps, and no one has been able to determine why. It is hoped that the computer model, which has received funding from UNDP, will help to shed light on this problem.

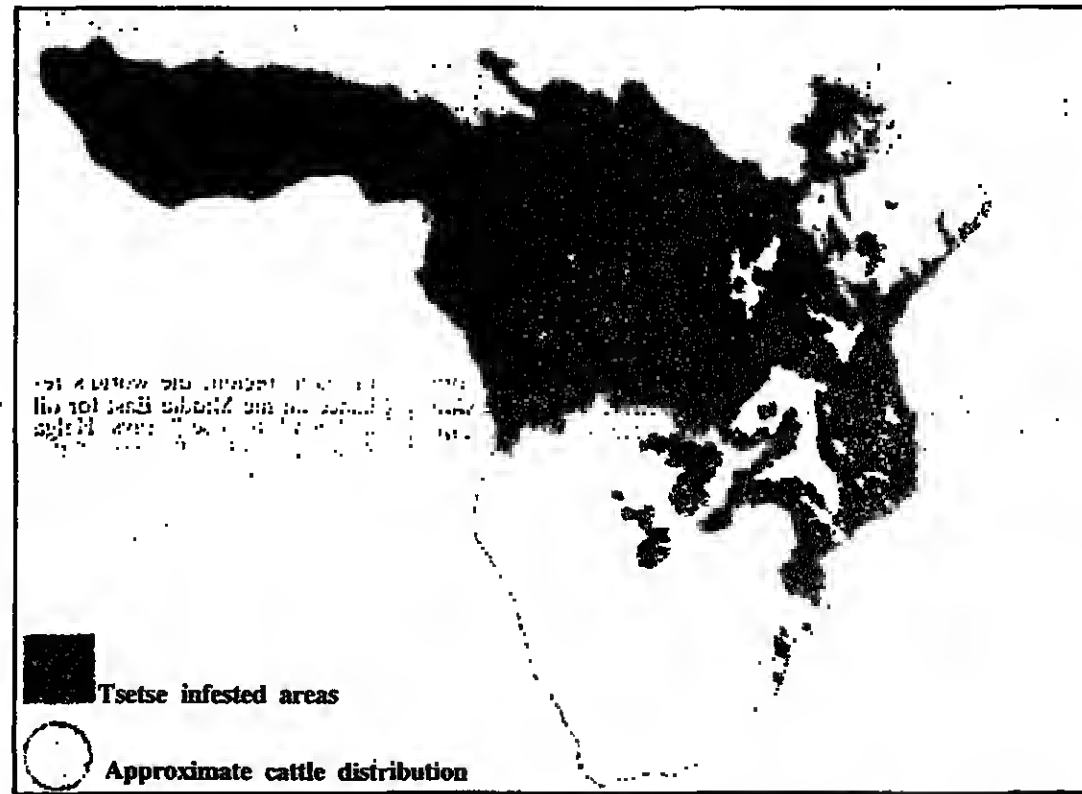
Studying behaviour and genetic traits in the laboratory has provided scientists with additional clues as to how to thin out large tsetse populations. One recent breakthrough has been the discovery of a virus that makes tsetse flies sterile — but an adequate method of delivery has so far eluded researchers. Decod-

ing and replicating tsetse communication signals is yet another task that is being pursued, and which may one day lead to making tsetse traps even more formidable.

Satisfied with the results of the operation at Nguruman, scientists at ICIPE are currently preparing the next phase of the campaign: to transfer what they have learned to a section of the heavily tsetse-infested Kagera Basin, an area that runs across the borders of Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Located by Lake Victoria, the basin is resplendent with tropical forests, rivers and savanna, and has a high incidence of trypanosomiasis.

Before progress is made against the tsetse population in Kagera, some basic questions will have to be answered. Are humans in the area at risk as well as livestock? Will the tsetse flies encountered there favour the same domestic animals as in Nguruman? And perhaps most important, will the same trap work as well with a different strain of fly, which is likely to be found there? "We're optimistic," says Dr. Otieno, "but we don't know for sure."

On the eve of the Kagera operation, members of ICIPE team remain confident. "We now have the beginnings of a technology that we can apply and use in the field, and it will be developed



Tsetse infested areas

Approximate cattle distribution

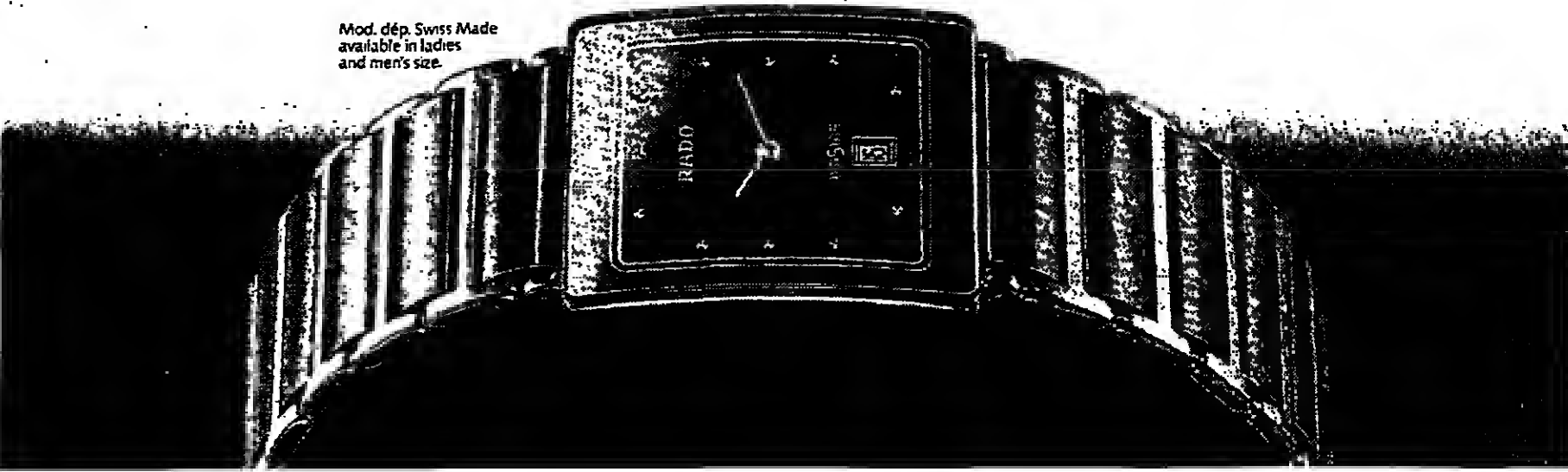
further," says Dr. Odhiambo. "We hope it can be extended into all of Kagera, then into other parts of Africa, such as the more arid areas of Zambia or Somalia, where tsetse flies may have different characteristics."

Central to the success of the entire campaign is the participation of many local residents who must be recruited and trained by ICIPE to help run the traps in the

field. "We are talking about an operation that in the long run will have to be sustained by the people themselves," says Dr. Dransfield. "It has to be in order to succeed." — UNDP Journal.

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Developing nations demand lower interest rates

WASHINGTON (R) — Developing nations said Sunday that lower international interest rates were indispensable to stem the drain of resources from poor to rich nations that was aggravating the world debt crisis.

The finance ministers of the Group of 24 (G-24), developing nations from Africa, Asia and Latin America, also called for rapid implementation of new debt initiatives to reduce the Third World's \$1.3 trillion debt.

"Seven years after its eruption, the debt crisis continues to cast a dark shadow of uncertainties over the economies and the political future of a large number of severely indebted countries," a G-24 communiqué said.

"Ministers pointed out that the overall external debt situation is critical," limiting the development prospects of their nations, it said.

Gabon's Finance Minister Fabian Ovono-Ngoua, the G-24 chairman, told a news conference that the persistent rise in interest rates over the last 18 months was adding to an already unsustainable debt-service burden.

For that reason it is indispensable for the industrial countries to apply less stringent monetary policies than they have up to now," Ovono-Ngoua said.

The chairman said the emphasis in the policy of industrialised nations should be on lower interest rates and economic growth, which would support the recovery efforts of the developing nations.

A Brazilian official said earlier that the rising interest rate had wiped out all the gains made by debtor nations in renegotiating the terms with which they pay their debt.

The G-24 ministers also focused on the U.S. debt reduction initiative that was announced by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady on March 10 and was still meeting resistance from Washington European industrial allies.

The G-24 ministers said any such programme should explicitly cover all severely indebted countries. Washington has proposed that the Brady plan be implemented on a country-by-country basis, benefitting those nations that have implemented economic reform programmes.

"We are certain that it (the Brady plan) will bear fruit because it flows from consultations among countries," Ovono-Ngoua said.

cause it flows from consultations among countries," Ovono-Ngoua said.

The G-24 ministers said the IMF's financial base should be strengthened as it would have an enhanced role in solving the debt problem.

But the G-24 chairman refused to go into details of how the developing nations thought debt reduction should be achieved. The European nations have objected to a major public role in resolving the crisis, saying that should be left up to agreements between commercial banks and debtor nations.

"Ministers reaffirmed that the satisfactory resolution of the debt problem is essential to the successful pursuit of structural

adjustment programmes," the communiqué said.

The G-24 ministers also urged that financing options that some middle-income debtor nations have benefitted from be made available to all indebted nations, particularly the African nations.

IMF says debt reduction no easy cure for Third World

The IMF said that new plans to reduce the Third World's debt burden could only work if developing nations put their economies in order.

"While reductions in the debt burden may help to improve conditions in some of the most highly indebted countries, such measures are no panacea," the IMF wrote in its spring assessment of the world economy.

"The most substantial contribution to a strengthened debt strategy will have to come from the debtor countries themselves," it noted.

It was unlikely a blanket scheme for debt forgiveness would provide appropriate incentives for debtor nations to pursue the economic reforms necessary for growth, it said.

The hard-line report also says industrial powers must act to reduce serious economic imbalances to help the developing world increase growth and improve its creditworthiness.

Jacob Frankel, the fund's economic counsellor and head of research, told reporters: "Economists have not yet found a way to deal with a deeply imbedded

structural problem without causing some hardship on some sectors in society."

He said it would be extremely imprudent for Latin American policy-makers "to promise a free lunch when there is none."

The IMF has come under criticism from countries in Latin America — saddled with more than \$400 billion of foreign loans — and Africa for demanding harsh economic reforms.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has stopped short of blaming the IMF directly for price riots throughout the country in late February which led to 300 deaths but has criticised the "unjust" international financial system.

The IMF's outlook says many

heavily indebted nations failed to benefit from last year's stronger than expected 4.1 per cent world growth and warned a recent rise in short-term interest rates could complicate tackling the debt crisis.

The fund says the debt strategy has to reverse the flow of funds out of the developing world. It proposed a combination of increased financing from the private and public sectors, determined efforts to reverse capital flight and further development of ways to reduce the burden of foreign loans.

Debt reduction schemes so far, either with countries buying back their loans from banks at a discount or swapping them for bonds, have cut the obligations of the 15 most heavily indebted countries by a just \$20 billion.

The outlook says the debt strategy employed in past years has reduced the danger of widespread defaults and a breakdown of the international payments mechanism.

But it adds: "The prospects for many developing countries remain clouded by their heavy debt servicing burden."

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Poland ups petrol prices by over 30%

WARSAW (R) — Poland increased the price of petrol by more than 30 per cent Sunday in a bid to contain excessive buying, the official PAP news agency said. The price of one litre of the 94-octane petrol used by most Polish drivers went up from 190 zloties (33 cents) to 250 zloties (44 cents). On Jan. 1, Poland increased the price of petrol by more than 50 per cent while lifting its eight-year-long rationing under which drivers were allowed on average 36 litres per month. PAP said petrol sales last month were 38 per cent higher than in March 1988.

Three states to mint coins in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's mint will produce coins and blanks for Costa Rica, Turkey and Algeria, the government news agency Notimex announced Sunday. Notimex, quoting an announcement by the mint, said that Algeria had contracted with Mexico to mint two million steel blanks for its coinage. Costa Rica renewed its contract for Mexico to make 20 million steel coins for the third consecutive year. The mint also said that Mexico is finishing up coins for Turkey and hoped to soon sign contracts to mint coins for the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras and Uruguay.

Peru devalues inti by 16.6 per cent

LIMA (AP) — The government has devalued its currency by 16.6 per cent, seeking to boost exports and reduce deficit spending. Officials say the fiscal and trade deficits are the leading causes of inflation, which hit a record high of 1,722 per cent last year. The economy ministry said March consumer prices rose 42 per cent over price levels the month previous. The government has said that inflation will continue to increase in the short term due to decreed price increases, but will eventually decline as the economy stabilises. Last week, the government increased the prices of gasoline and subsidised foods, such as wheat, cooking oil and rice, an average of 20 per cent. The devaluation, announced in the official gazette El Peruano, pushed the official rate of the inti to 1,440 to the dollar, compared with 1,200 previously.

Report predicts oil boom for Britain

LONDON (AP) — Britain will experience a second oil boom in the next decade and will remain a self-sufficient oil nation into the 21st century, stockbrokers County Natwest Wood-Mac has predicted. The firm said Britain's North Sea oil production should rise sharply again by the mid-1990s, driven by 42 potential developments and investments of \$14-billion (nearly \$24 billion).

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, April 3, 1989 Central Bank official rates					
Buy	Sell	French franc	Japanese yen (for 100)	84.3	85.2
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Dutch guilder	406.4	411.2
Pound Sterling	901.7	911.4	Swedish crown	252.3	253.2
Deutschemark	284.3	287.5	Italian lira (for 100)	83.6	84.4
Swiss franc	324.3	328.0	Belgian franc (for 10)	38.8	39.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6770/80	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1910/20	Canadian dollar	
	1.8910/17	Deutschemarks	
	2.1303/13	Dutch guilders	
	1.6583/93	Swiss francs	
	39.58/61	Belgian francs	
	6.3720/70	French francs	
	1386/1387	Italian lire	
	132.40/50	Japanese yen	
	6.4260/310	Swedish crowns	
	6.8570/620	Norwegian crowns	
	7.3500/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	385.10/385.60	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices drifted lower on slim volume. High interest rates and the Australian dollar's strength kept many investors away. The All-Ordinaries Index slipped 7.1 to 1,452.5.

TOKYO — Prices surged up in brisk trade on heavy seasonal demand at the start of the Japanese fiscal year. The Nikkei Index climbed 203.39 to 33,042.07 its fourth successive record close.

HONG KONG — Prices drifted lower in dull and quiet trade. One broker said he expected the market to remain in the doldrums. The Hang Seng Index lost 17.77 to 2,987.21.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed lower on profit-taking after some recent rises. The Straits Times Industrial Index shed 2.51 to 1,187.27.

BOMBAY — Share prices continued last week's rally behind market leader Tata Steel on heavy speculative buying on rumours the government was considering removing controls on steel pricing. Tata shares shot up 32.5 rupees to 1,270.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended sharply higher in the most active Frankfurt trading in weeks, as investors' interest rate fears retreated. The 30-share real-time Dax Index closed up 21.69 at 1,344.35.

ZURICH — Share prices closed higher across the board as sentiment improved. The All-Share Index broke through the psychological 1,000 points barrier for the first time since October 1987 to finish up 7.0 at 1,005.1.

PARIS — French share prices ended higher after operators took some comfort from the G-7 countries' apparent resolve to maintain currency stability but trading remained thin. The 50-share Bourse indicator rose 0.65 per cent up.

LONDON — Share prices were mixed in low afternoon volume after earlier volatility. A mixed tone on Wall Street gave no extra impetus. By 1521 GMT, the FTSE was 2.8 up at 2,077.8.

NEW YORK — Stocks were mostly lower but Blue Chips advanced. Merger stocks featured. The dollar fell on G-7 nations' comments that a further rise would be counter-productive. The Dow was up five at 2,299.

'Only God' can take Harrods from Fayed

LONDON (AP) — Egyptian millionaire Mohammed Al Fayed, embroiled in controversy about his takeover of Harrods, told reporters Sunday that no one would take the British department store from him — "only God."

Al Fayed and his brothers bought the House of Fraser stores — including Harrods — in 1985 for \$1.03 billion after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission thwarted repeated purchasing attempts by Lorch PLC.

Since then, Lorch, a British conglomerate headed by Tiny Rowland, has waged a campaign to have the takeover reversed, alleging the Al Fayed made false representations about their wealth and origins to make their bid. The brothers deny the allegations.

The battle burst back into the

news last week when the government obtained a court order blocking publication of a special edition of the Observer newspaper entirely to the long-running dispute.

The newspaper, owned by Lorch, said it was printing what it claimed were long extracts from an unreleased government report on the matter.

Al Fayed, who played host to a private party Sunday at Harrods, was persistently questioned by reporters and finally smiled and reported, "I paid cash. My check never bounced."

"I own the shop and nobody ever will be able to take it away, only God," he asserted. "How can I give it up? I'll never give it up," he said joyfully. "I'm making plans to be buried on the top."

OPEC may raise oil output if prices stabilise

KUWAIT (AP) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will consider increasing its output ceiling of 18.5 million barrels a day if oil prices stabilise at the reference price of \$18 or more in June, OPEC's President Rilwanu Lukman was quoted Monday as saying in an interview with the daily Al Watani.

"If we found oil prices in June stabilised at the level of \$18 a barrel or more, we would increase the organisation's production ceiling. Otherwise, the reference price will remain as it is. We cannot predict what is going to happen in the coming two months," Lukman said.

Ian Seymour, editor of the weekly Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), reported from Vienna that confidence in prices was melting resistance to a boost

in the production ceiling.

"This great confidence on the price front... made Iran and Algeria more open than might have been expected to the idea of a sizable boost in the OPEC production ceiling for the second half of the year," MEES reported in its April 3 edition.

OPEC officials expect a boost of between one million and 1.5 million barrels to be agreed on at the June meeting, MEES said. Lukman, who is also Nigeria's oil minister, was interviewed in Vienna where he last week attended a meeting of eight OPEC oil ministers forming the group's market monitoring and long-term strategy committee.

The group's president doused the significance of last week's market price hitting the \$18 price per barrel, an increase of \$5 a barrel since last November.

He said he did not consider that an increase in prices. "What happened is that the price... touched OPEC's official price of \$18 a barrel," he said. "The prices of certain crude grades have exceeded those of other crudes. This happens occasionally because of changing circumstances."

OPEC, he pointed out, takes into consideration a basket of crudes in calculating prices. "According to this concept, oil prices did not rise," Lukman said.

"We in OPEC want to be realistic. We don't want prices to rise in jumps or to collapse," he said.

IMF warns of inflation, trade imbalances

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The powerful global economic expansion, now in its seventh year, will be in jeopardy unless inflation is controlled and trade imbalances are reduced, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Monday.

Although the rise in interest rates in the past year could upset currency markets, increase the burden of Third World debt and hinder growth in developing countries, the Washington-based fund said more harsh medicine might be needed.

"The tightening of monetary conditions during 1988 has helped to reduce the danger of a significant pick-up in inflation during the period ahead. However, policymakers should be prepared to take additional steps should inflation fail to moderate as envisaged," the IMF's staff said in their semi-annual World Economic Outlook.

The fund said the harsh consequences of higher interest rates might be avoided if the United States took urgent steps to cut its huge budget deficit, if necessary by raising taxes.

It said the Bush administration's deficit forecasts were optimistic and warned it might not fall much in the medium term unless new deficit-reduction measures were taken.

Stanching the flow of red budget ink, which would take some steam out of the import-thirsty U.S. economy, was also essential to achieve better balance in world trade, it added.

In a sombre analysis, the fund said the deficit in the U.S. current account, the broadest measure of trade, was likely to widen from \$135.3 billion in 1988 to \$139.3 billion this year and to \$156.6 billion in 1990.

At the same time the mirror-image surpluses of Japan and West Germany would grow, it said.

"On the basis of current poli-

cies and exchange rates, these imbalances are likely to remain large into the 1990s, which would involve a significant risk of instability in financial markets, accompanied by higher inflation and a slowdown in growth," the fund report added.

The risk is that foreign investors might refuse at some point to keep financing the U.S. deficit unless they could buy dollars more cheaply or get higher interest rates on the money they lend. If that were to happen, the market reaction could be so violent as to endanger economic growth, the IMF said.

After expanding a surprisingly strong 4.1 per cent in 1988, the main industrial countries were projected to grow 3.3 per cent this year and 2.9 per cent in 1990.

Inflation was likely to pick up to 3.8 per cent from 3.2 per cent in 1988 before slowing down to 3.5 per cent in 1990 under the impact of the recent rise in interest rates.

But the fund said there was a risk inflation could turn out to be higher. Indeed, officials said the IMF recently revised its estimate of U.S. inflation upward because of rising oil prices and higher consumer prices in early 1989.

It now projects U.S. inflation will rise from 4.1 per cent in 1988 to 4.7 per cent this year and 4.9 per cent in 1990.

Jacob Frankel, director of the fund's research department, said central bankers had done an exemplary job last year but warned that once the inflation genie gets out of the bottle it is hard to put back.

"Once you recognise inflation in the numbers, it's too late," he told reporters. Frankel called for a tighter U.S. fiscal policy, so that the U.S. central bank does not have to bear all the burden of restraining inflation.

Central bankers can perhaps fight five rounds with one hand tied behind their backs, but not 10, he said.

Leading countries support Brady plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seven leading industrialised nations have endorsed a new U.S. debt relief plan for the Third World, clearing the way for U.S. officials to push its approval by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The endorsement Sunday by America's major allies was the first step in a sales strategy put together by the administration of President George Bush, U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady takes the proposal before meetings this week of the steering committees of the 151-nation IMF and the World Bank.

The IMF and World Bank play key roles in implementation of the new debt relief approach, which the administration hopes will shave the current debt burden by 20 per cent.

The endorsement was contained in a joint communiqué issued by the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy following almost eight hours of closed-door discussions Sunday between Brady and finance officials from the seven countries.

"Debt strategy should be

strengthened by placing greater emphasis on voluntary debt relief and debt service reduction in agreement with the commercial banks as a complement to new lending," the finance ministers said.

Brady said he was pleased with the endorsement, saying it was unusually detailed on what approaches ought to be taken and very specific on the need for prompt action by the international lending agencies.

"There was broad support for strengthening the debt strategy along the lines of the U.S. proposals," Brady told reporters after the meeting ended.

A senior treasury official, who briefed reporters, said that while the communiqué did not mention specific support to be provided by other countries, he expected such announcements would be made later in the week. The administration is looking for countries running large surpluses, such as Japan, to offer to support the debt reduction effort by providing money for new loans.

The Brady plan represents a major departure from the debt approach pursued by the adminis-

tration of former president Ronald Reagan, which had repeatedly rejected proposals for broad-based debt forgiveness.

The \$1.3 trillion burden of Third World debt has crippled the economies of developing nations and sparked economic and political unrest in many emerging democracies in Latin America.

In other comments, the seven industrialised countries reaffirmed their commitment to stabilise the dollar, saying either a sharp increase or decline in the currency's value would be seen as harmful to worldwide economic growth and would trigger joint intervention by the nations to buy or sell dollars.

The countries also told the United States that it needs to do more to reduce its huge budget deficits and said countries, such as Japan, which were running large trade surpluses, should continue to promote domestic demand in order to provide markets

for foreign goods.

The administration has estimated that over the next three years the Brady plan could wipe out about \$70 billion of the \$340 billion in debt owed by 39 of the most heavily indebted countries.

The IMF and World Bank would be expected to contribute together between \$20 billion and \$25 billion to back the debt reduction effort with the United States looking to Japan and other countries running large trade surpluses to assist in the effort by making new loans.

U.S. officials have indicated that Mexico, Venezuela and the Philippines likely would be among the first beneficiaries of any debt relief strategy.

Debtors nations are already complaining that the plan does not go far enough to provide relief. Some experts have said that any attack on the problem will have to write off 50 per cent or more of the debt.

Soviets open trade office in Seoul

SEOUL (AP) — The Soviet Union opened its first trade office in South Korea Monday, becoming the third communist country to do so, the state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp. said. Officials said the Soviet trade office was set up under an agreement signed between the state-run trade organisation and the Soviet chamber of commerce in Moscow on Dec. 1 last year. The two countries have yet to establish formal ties. The trade officials said South Korea will open its trade office in Moscow next week. Hungary and Yugoslavia last year opened trade offices in Seoul and Poland and Bulgaria were slated to open Korean trade offices in a month, the officials said. In 1988, South Korea exported \$99.6 million worth of goods including electric home appliances, textiles and steel products to the Soviet Union, while it imported \$158 million of Soviet goods, including aluminium ingots, cotton and other yarns and pulp.

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Canada drugs inquiry set to last until June

TORONTO (AP) — The Canadian inquiry into drugs and athletics, resuming Monday after a sensational testimony on steroid use, has much ground to cover before hearing Ben Johnson's account of what led to his positive test at the Seoul Olympics.

Also awaited, and still weeks from appearing is Dr. Jamie Astaphan, the physician named as the supplier of anabolic steroids for the star sprinter and other top Canadian athletes.

While the inquiry took a two-week break, Astaphan said he would "spill every detail at the inquiry."

"When I testify, people will see and understand the truth about track and field," he said from his home on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts.

Astaphan said steroid use was rampant at Seoul, where Johnson tested positive for stanozolol.

"If there was any athlete not on them (steroids), they were probably from Sri Lanka or Timbuktu or some other Gondwanan place," he said.

Johnson's only public comment since being stripped of his Olympic gold medal after the positive test was that he never knowingly used illegal drugs to enhance his performance.

The federal government formed the commission of inquiry into the use of drugs and banned practices intended to increase athletic performance after a positive test turned Canadian celebration of Johnson's stunning, 9.79-second 100-metre race at Seoul into disgrace.

Johnson's lawyer, Ed Futerman, has indicated that in his cross-examination he will portray his client as an athlete with limited education who trusted his

coach.

The coach, Charlie Francis, detailed in a dramatic eight-day appearance steroid use by 13 of his athletes dating back to 1979. He said Johnson first tried the banned substances in 1981 and continued to use them within weeks of the 1988 Olympics.

But Francis said the positive test for stanozolol was a surprise. The other testimony about injections given to Johnson came from women's sprinter Angelia Taylor Issajenko and her husband, former runner Tanny Issajenko. The longtime women's champion said she decided to start using steroids in 1979 and listed an array of substances used over the years.

Presiding judge Charles Dubin has said the hearings are not a trial and are not aimed at one athlete or even one sport. He said they are intended as a sweeping look at amateur sports and the pressures that may be encouraging young athletes to cheat.

Starting Monday, there is expected to be three weeks of testimony before a one-week break at the end of April. No witness schedule is released beforehand, but Astaphan and Johnson are expected to be among the last to appear in May, June or possibly later.

Francis said he concluded a decade ago that steroids were being used by virtually everyone at the top levels of international competition and his athletes were justified in taking them to keep pace.

He ended his testimony with an appeal for the problem to be recognized and addressed instead of being continually denied. "We're awash in a sea of denial," Francis said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Fitter Jansher upsets Jahangir

MONACO (R) — Jansher Khan used his superior fitness to upset world champion and fellow-Pakistani Jahangir Khan in the final of the Monte Carlo Open Squash Tournament on Sunday. Jansher triumphed in a tight two-hour battle that went the full five games and gained a valuable psychological boost ahead of the British Open starting on April 12. The 7-15, 15-11, 7-15, 15-12, 15-7 win gave Jansher his first Grand Prix victory of the year and was sweet revenge for his heavy defeat to Jahangir in Spain two weeks ago.

Jordan at point guard has 5th triple double

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Jordan, playing point guard for the 13th straight game, had his fifth consecutive triple-double Sunday as the Chicago Bulls defeated the hapless New Jersey Nets 106-95. Jordan had 28 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists in leading the Bulls to their 10th victory in the last 12 contests. For the Nets, it was their 13th loss in the last 14 games and 12th consecutive defeat on the road. The Bulls broke open a 57-57 tie with a 23-6 run, with Scottie Pippen scoring 10 of his 12 third-period points during the spurt. Pippen finished with 23 points. The Nets, who were led by Chris Morris with 18 points and 11 rebounds, narrowed the 17-point deficit to 92-85 in the final quarter, but the Bulls scored 10 of the next 12 points as Brad Sellers hit two jumpers and John Paxson added a jumper and a steal.

Exhibition match a letdown

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — With Thomas Muster knocked out of Sunday's finals by a knee injury suffered in a car accident, the crowd at the International Players championships settled for watching an exhibition match. Partly because the tournament refused to offer a ticket refund, the 12,263-seat stadium was almost full. But the excitement that permeates a championship event was absent. "This is a devastating experience," tournament chairman Butch Buchholz said. "The Press room is virtually empty, and all our foreign television coverage has been cancelled." The exhibition match between Lendl and Jakob Hlasek was hastily arranged Saturday after Muster's left leg went into a cast stretching from his toes to his thigh.

Confident Thai champion predicts victory

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) — Champion Khaosai Galaxy of Thailand said Monday he will retain his World Boxing Association junior bantamweight title and told Japanese challenger Kenji Matsumura to "come in fight." The two will meet Saturday in a 12-round title match at the Yokohama Bunka gymnasium. It will be the champion's 10th defence of the title he won from Eusebio Espinal of the Dominican Republic in November 1984 with a sixth-round knockout. Asked in which round he will knock down Matsumura, the champion replied, "I don't know, but I will show you a nice fight. Everything is up to chance and timing." "Matsumura must be the good fighter because no other Japanese wanted to meet me," said the confident champion, who has 35 victories, 32 by knock out, and only one loss.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation —

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The focus today is on freedom, pleasure, and creative talents. Be independent, and open to new ideas. The suggestions of others may be useful in solving relational problems.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): When school and imposed restrictions are lifted, you will feel like yourself again. Your feelings of indecision will pass.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20): A recent contact can play an important role in improving finances. You decide "yes" on a new project you have been contemplating.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Social prestige is gaining. Others appreciate your colorful stories and tales. Encourage a reunion with an old pal.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): There is a desire to change or makeover your environment. Family members may oppose your ideas.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Your prestige and power are growing daily. Balance your success by sharing with those who have helped you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Vigorous work ethics pay off. What has been earned can be enjoyed.

The skeptics wonder how you got so much done in such a short time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Minor domestic scraps can mushroom unless you address the matter. Make a decision and stick to it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Innocent flirting will intensify if you want it to. It is your choice to proceed or back off. Be wary of being ringed for some unattached Scorpio.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Further research, of a personal project that lacks funding, may produce a conclusion. Intuition is strong. Stay flexible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Promote yourself along with good ideas at the career post. Skip the suggestion box, and go directly to a VIP. You are on the right track.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): You can get what you want, in less time, if you will be more flexible. Listening to others does not discredit your own plans.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): You tend to be too trusting of others. Read the fine print, be sure that you understand, and don't take loyalty so much for granted.

Baseball season opens with a limp

NEW YORK (AP) — The major league baseball season gets off to a start Monday when President George Bush, a former player at Yale University, will throw out the first pitch in Baltimore.

It will be the beginning of six months of baseball, with 162 games just waiting to take their twists and turns. Will the Dodgers become the first world series winner to repeat since the New York Yankees in 1977-78? Can the New York Mets and Oakland dominate or could St. Louis and Texas surprise?

The season is getting off to a start, but what a shaky start it is. Milwaukee, picked by many to win the American League East, begins the season with Paul Molitor, Ted Higuera, Juan Nieves and Dale Sveum on the disabled list. The New York Yankees are missing Dave Winfield through.

the all-star break and could be without Don Mattingly on opening night. Orel Hersheiser, who starts the season with a streak of 59 scoreless innings, will miss Monday's opener in Cincinnati because of the flu. He will pitch Wednesday against Cincinnati.

Other big names are going the other direction, trying to come back from injuries that could have ended their careers.

Fernando Valenzuela and John Tudor, two keys to the Los Angeles Dodgers' pitching staff, are both trying to recover from arm problems. Bob Ojeda, who nearly se-

vered a finger on his pitching hand late last season, is back in the New York Mets' rotation and will make his first start next weekend.

Cincinnati manager Pete Rose and Wade Boggs of the Boston Red Sox will begin the season in familiar surroundings. But they may not be by October. Rose is being investigated by the league for "serious allegations," most likely linked to gambling. A decision is due in about a month.

Bostnn, meanwhile, is still trying to trade Boggs. Team management is afraid his affair with Margo Adams will disrupt the club and might rather see him somewhere else. Boggs could be headed to Seattle in a trade. Meanwhile, the San Diego

Padres and the Toronto Blue Jays played the best pre-season ball. The Padres, who added Jack Clark, Bruce Hurst and Walt Terrell in the off-season, had the best record in the exhibition season. The Blue Jays, who have not made a major trade since August 1987, were also impressive.

Griffey won a job with Seattle by setting a team record for hits in spring training. Mark McGwire, a former American League rookie of the year, hit eight home runs for Oakland last month.

Jim Abbott, the one-handed wonder, earned a spot in the California rotation. He is scheduled to make his major league debut next weekend against Seattle.

Read all about it: baseball dictionary

WASHINGTON (AP) — "You could look it up," Casey Stengel, the colorful American baseball player and manager, once said. Now you really could.

Baseball has its own dictionary.

You could find out that the "Williams Shift" is a strategic defensive move in baseball created in 1946 to counter the pull-hitting power of Ted Williams. You could learn how being in the "Cathbird Seat" came to mean being in a position of mastery, thanks to broadcaster Red Barber, who heard the term in a game of cards.

You could find out about

Babe Ruth's famous "Called Shot" — and whether it actually occurred. Allegedly — even his obituaries told it as true — with two strikes against him and the score 4-4, Ruth pointed to the centerfield flagpole in Wrigley field on Oct. 1, 1932, in a Yankee-Chicago Cubs world series game, then sent the ball flying over the right centerfield wall.

The Williams Shift, the Cathbird Seat and the Called Shot are among 5,000 baseball terms defined and traced to their roots in "The Dictionary of Baseball," published just in time for Opening Day 1989.

Paul Dickson, U.S. author of 20 other books, spent 18 months collecting and defining

"the motley vocabulary of baseball" by rooting in such places of authority as the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

The Dictionary illustrates how much English owes to baseball.

"In Book" meant making an error handling a ball; now it means to mishandle anything.

"Butterfingers" was first applied to a player who drops the ball; now it is anyone who does. "Bush" comes from "Bush League," the nickname for the lower levels of the minors, where ball is played where bushes still grow. In everyday parlance, "Bush" means amateurish. Some terms capture the

hard-edged humor of baseball. A player who "can't catch cold" is hopelessly inept in defensive situations. A "Morning Glory" is a hitter who shines early, then fades, just like the flowers on the vine.

"The Snodgrass Mutt" is named for Fred Snodgrass, the New York Giant outfielder who dropped a batted ball in the tenth inning of the final game of the 1912 World Series. The Boston Red Sox went on to win the game and the series.

Calls to mind what Casey Stengel, said after taking over the inept 1962 New York Mets: "Can't anyone here play this game?" That's in the dictionary, too. You could look it up.

Table tennis: from ancient art to modern blitz

DORTMUND, West Germany (R) — Thirty years after winning three world table tennis titles, Ichiro Ogimura of Japan has returned to Dortmund to help run the highest ever championships and shape the future of his sport.

Ogimura, now President of the International Table Tennis Federation, has witnessed a transformation in the game since the era when he won 12 world titles. In his day a rally could take 10 minutes. Now, high performance materials and the vicious spin of the ball means the longest exchange lasts only seconds.

In Dortmund, Ogimura saw China break the Japanese dominance and usher in a new era with their first victory, the singles title he had hoped to win.

The West German head of the organising committee, Hans Wilhelm Gaeb, also played in 1959 and lost in the third round of the singles.

"The best memory for me was being able to mix at last with people from the whole world as a young German and that Germany could again host a major world event after the war," he said.

"The game has become simpler, more spin-orientated," Ogimura said. In 1959 there was more speed and placement too.

"The problem is that while television audiences and distant spectators can follow speed and placement, the spin that wins

points is almost invisible to them."

Thirty years ago, a ball spun at 2,500 revolutions a minute. Now new types of rubber on the bats push that up to 8,000, making shots much more deceptive.

Ogimura and Gaeb are both encouraging moves to slow down the game — possibly by raising

the height of the net or standardising the rubber used on bats.

"But people were wondering how to slow the game down 30 years ago too," Ogimura said.

Then, Ogimura had an approach to winning that owed more to 3,000 years of Oriental learning than modern technology — he studied the ancient science

of reading character.

"In table tennis you look into your opponent's eyes for 60 minutes and try to understand him," he said.

"It helped me to read the Europeans though their features were unfamiliar to an Asian," he said.

China faces surprise foes

DORTMUND (R) — World champions China were forced to do some late homework on surprise opponents the Soviet Union before the men's team semifinals at the world table tennis championships on Monday.

China, who have taken the men's title at the last four championships, expected to meet improving South Korea.

But the Koreans, led by Olympic champion Yoo Nam-Kyu, were surprisingly beaten 3-2 by the Russians in Sunday's quarter-finals.

The result was one of the first major upsets of the event — the Soviet Union finished 11th at the last championships — and pushed the Chinese, led by world champion Jiang Jialiang, on to far from familiar territory.

Their women's team, however, needed no special preparations before meeting South Korea in

Monday's women's team final. The Chinese, looking for their seventh successive crown, have beaten the Koreans in four world title finals since 1975.

China have dominated table tennis since the late 1950s and boast a haul of 25 out of the 28 gold medals on offer at the last four world championships. But, desperate for a crop of fresh talent, they know their position is now under threat.

Jiang, twice world singles champion and expected to retire after Dortmund, sees European champions Sweden, who meet North Korea in the other semifinal, as their strongest challenger.

"The Swedes have the best chances because they are well-balanced and we are playing in Western Europe," he said.

Swedish coach Glenn Osth was in confident mood after his team beat West Germany in Sunday's

quarter-finals.

"We will beat North Korea. We know their type of play and our players are in a very good form," he said.

Andrei and Dmitri Mazunov will be the names the Chinese coaches will need to find quickly in their form book. The twin brothers, who turned 22 Friday, were the heroes in the Soviet victory.

Andrei, the stronger of the two and silver medalist at the European championships last year, won all three of his ties including a three-game victory over Yoo.

Dmitri lost two but it was his 21-7 22-20 defeat of Kim Taek-Soo in the eighth match which clinched victory.

Soviet coach Nikolai Novikov knows the twins must reproduce the form if they are going to stretch the Chinese. "Andrei Mazunov is our mainstay. It all depends on him," he said.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

HARRIS 3-29



"We can't keep up with the Joneses anymore. They just got a car phone for their lawn tractor."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FORVA

VOLCE

YIFTON

TIMOON

Now arrange the circled letters in form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

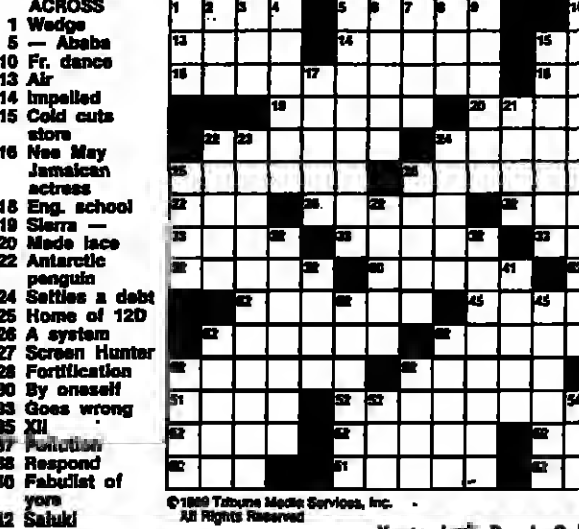
Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: FETCH CUEBE AMAZON CANNED
Answer: Fit to be eaten except in the EDEN

THE Daily Crossword

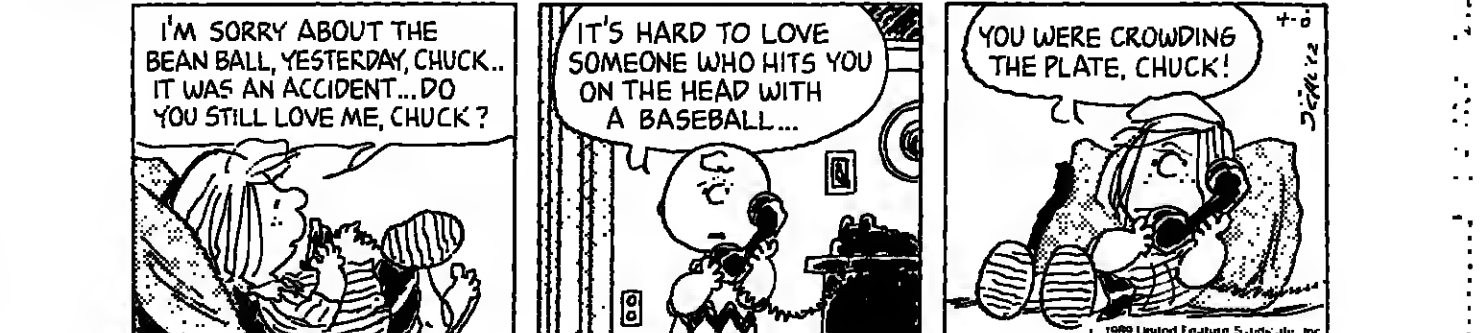
by Bernice Gordon



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- ACROSS**
- Wedge
 - Abode
 - Fr. dance
 - Air
 - Impelled
 - Cold cuts
 - storm
 - Nee May Jamaican actress
 - Eng. school
 - Siena
 - Made lace
 - Antarctic penguin
 - Settles a debt
 - Home of 120
 - A system
 - Screen Hunter
 - Fortification
 - By oneself
 - Does wrong
 - 30
 - Punctuation
 - Respond
 - Fabulist of yore
 - Saluki
 - Fingerprint items
 - Female fozes
 - Composer-singer Ritchie
 - Moon goddess
 - Bright
 - Marksmen
 - Season of "Beezon"
 - Nee May actress from NY
 - Indiana
 - Ripening
 - Particulars
 - Actor Christopher
 - Greatest hero
 - Delicious
 - Widow's portion
 - Eur. native
 - DOWN
 - Drop
 - "Ben"
 - A Gershwin
 - Like some
 - Was next to
 - Parasite
 - Completed
 - "Got a
 - "Don't"
 - Point part
 - Nee May playwright from NY
 - Bitter drug
 - Famous Jeany
 - Particulars
 - One who anguishes
 - Great harbor
 - On to
 - "La"
 - Nee May actress from Ohio
 - Descartes and City
 - Gang follower
 - Labyrinth
 - Handyman
 - Nary a soul
 - Ova
 - Pedant
 - Calendar part
 - Nee May
 - Recent part
 - Birds' nests
 - Impede
 - Persian king
 - Forward nush
 - Colander
 - 49 Thailand
 - On a shore
 - Recent part
 - Mao — lung
 - Corn unit
 - Difficulty

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Namibia fighting rages; SWAPO offers peace

WINDHOEK (R) — Fighting raged along a 300-kilometre front in northern Namibia Monday scarcely 48 hours after a U.N.-monitored peace process came into effect.

But South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) leaders, whose guerrillas clashed with South African-led forces within hours of the U.N.'s mandate coming into force Saturday, said the fighting could be stopped if the South Africans agreed.

"We are ready to send our commanders to the area and order a halt to the fighting provided the South Africans do the same," SWAPO Information Secretary Hideo Hamuena told Reuters in the Angolan capital Luanda.

"We could stop it in a couple of hours if we could fly our commanders into the area," he added.

At least 150 people are reported to have been killed in some of the bloodiest fighting in the 23-year war SWAPO has waged against South Africa's illegal occupation of the desert territory.

Witnesses returning from the front said villages were ablaze and bodies lay strewn on the ground. Helicopter gunships were being mobilised to contain the rebels who had ground-to-air missiles, they reported.

The Territorial Police Force alleged that the clashes began when more than 1,000 SWAPO guerrillas entered Namibia from Angola with weapons in breach

of the ceasefire which is a key element in the U.N. plan to bring Namibia to independence.

But SWAPO leaders Sam Nujoma said his men had been provoked into fighting. "The fighting started in Namibia," he said, but added: "It is possible our men asked for reinforcements."

He said the rebels were just waiting for U.N. troops to confine them to bases when the fighting broke out.

Both the rebels and the South African-led forces were to be confined to base under the accord bringing into effect U.N. Resolution 435, the framework for Namibian independence passed in 1978.

"SWAPO is dismayed and shocked. The very forces against which we asked UNTAG (United Nations Transition Assistance Group) to protect our people have once again killed... we expect an explanation from the secretary-general," Nujoma told African and European parliamentarians in Harare.

Nujoma said U.N. special representative Martti Ahtisaari was partly responsible. "The blame here ought to fall squarely on the U.N. special representative who has not ensured an adequate presence of UNTAG's military component," he said.

Unless UNTAG was strengthened, "the massacre of our people by the South African army will continue with impunity," he said.

The U.N. force was cut from 7,500 men to 4,650 because of its cost and Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Natban Sbamuyarira told the parliamentarians ("UNTAG commander) Prem Chand does not have enough troops to maintain peace or even monitor what is happening."

The U.N. office in Windhoek said the Security Council might go into emergency session later Monday to discuss the crisis and the fate of the peacekeeping force.

"The secretary-general will report to the Security Council, which could go into urgent consultations later today," a spokesman said.

Meanwhile Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Monday he was asking the president of the Security Council to hold consultations among the members about the fighting.

He told a reporter in New York that he expected the 15 representatives would hold talks during the day but did not know if this would lead to a formal, open meeting of the council.

Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Belonogov is the president of the council this month.

On a brief visit to Windhoek after a bloody clash in northern Namibia British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Saturday she expected the council to consider a report on the incident.

Li Peng cautions about democracy

PEKING (AP) — Premier Li Peng said Monday that China must move with caution in carrying out democratic reform, saying excessive democracy could affect the nation's unity and stability.

Li, speaking at a two-hour news conference, also said he assumed responsibility for errors that have led to China's current economic havoc, but stressed errors should not overshadow the progress China has made in its past decade of reform.

Li said his government advocates democratic reform and believes it can contribute to economic development.

"On the other hand, if the democratic process is not well attended to, say if work in this regard is carried out in haste or an excessive extent, then it will certainly affect the situation of unity and stability and if the stable situation is undermined then it won't make our work of construction of reform smooth," he said.

He said the situation in China is different from that of the Soviet Union, which has been bolder in initiating multi-candidate elections and other political reforms.

"China cannot mechanically copy the measures or policies adopted by the Soviet Union," Li said.

Li said social stability must be given priority in questions of human rights.

Asked whether the government was alienating China's intellectuals by ignoring a recent series of petitions concerning China's human rights record, Li said the human rights are already protected by the constitution.

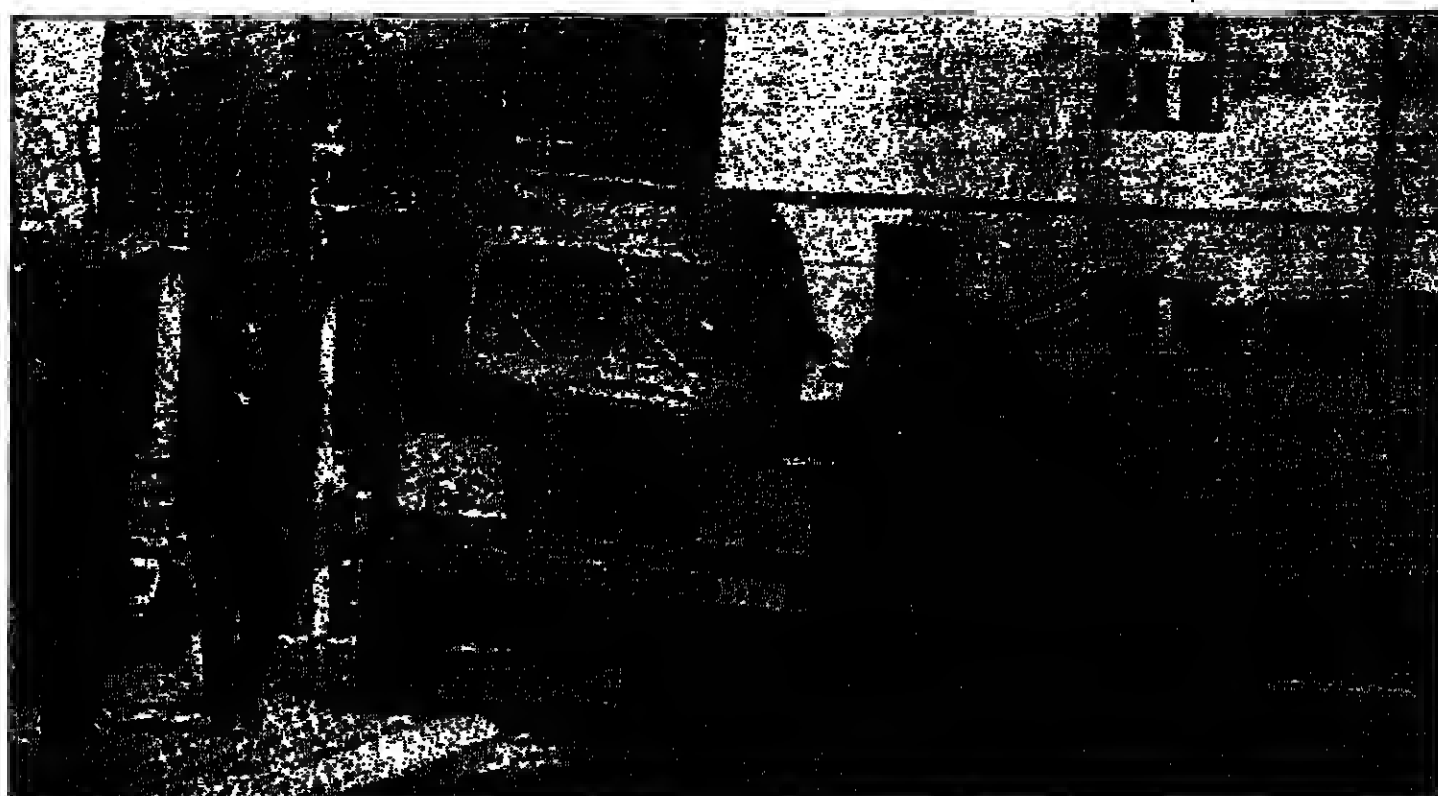
He added that "any activities that go beyond the limit prescribed by the constitution or law will be limited. In the present circumstances we especially need a stable situation and I think such a stable situation is in the interest of the Chinese people."

The premier, generally regarded as less enthused about reform than Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang, made a point of supporting measures that have revolutionised China's economic life in the past decade.

On other matters, Li said "conditions are not ripe" for lifting martial law in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, imposed March 7 after three days of pro-independence rioting.

He said normalisation of relations with the Soviet Union will be the most important outcome of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's May visit to Peking for the first Sino-Soviet summit in 30 years.

China and the Soviet Union, long split over ideological and strategic differences, "have travelled a very long abnormal course," Li said, adding this was not in the interests of two people who share a 7,000-kilometre border.



An army truck and mobile anti-aircraft gun vehicle patrol the streets of Pristina, the Kosovo capital, after days of rioting.

Kosovo purges 'rebellious' Albanians

BELGRADE (R) — Authorities in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo have ordered one of the biggest purges in the country since World War II following riots by ethnic Albanians in which at least 24 people died.

The purge will not only hit ethnic Albanian politicians and officials but also intellectuals throughout the province, officials said Monday.

"What is happening in Kosovo is like President Tito's grand purges of Stalinists, liberals and nationalists," a Yugoslav political analyst said.

Tito, who died in 1980, waged several major purges during his 35 years of power in Yugoslavia.

Kosovo's Communist Party announced the purge Saturday, expelling former Kosovo party leader Azem Vllasi, who was arrested a month ago accused of

counter-revolution for inciting unrest.

It also dropped three members from the Kosovo Politburo — Kacusa Jasari, Djumret Selmani and Vojislav Zajic.

Prominent Kosovo politicians Ekrem Arifi, who was arrested with Vllasi, and Ejup Gasbi, were thrown out of the party.

Ethnic Albanians rioted for six days from March 23 in Yugoslavia's worst ethnic violence for more than 40 years. At least 24 people died in battles between police and protesters who were angry over curbs on local self-rule.

About 400 agitators were reported to have been arrested.

Officials said hundreds of ethnic Albanians would be removed from jobs as politicians, officials, lecturers and teachers within the next four weeks for

encouraging nationalism.

Kosovo is a province of Serbia, which introduced constitutional changes last week to take more control of the region.

Serbia, the largest of Yugoslavia's six republics, has accused ethnic Albanians of terrorising Kosovo's 200,000 Serbian minority.

The Kosovo crisis and Serbia's growing power have fuelled serious divisions among the six republics. Communist Party leaders and the country's top editors met Monday to find ways to end inter-regional squabbling in the media.

In Kosovo, 10 alleged separatists went on trial accused of setting up an illegal anti-Yugoslav group that aimed to create a breakaway republic in Kosovo.

At least two bomb attacks have been reported in the past few

days, boosting the view among defence experts that some Albanian nationalists in Kosovo may turn to guerrilla actions to resist Serbia.

Western analysts considered Vllasi a leader of a moderate wing in the Kosovo Party that preferred a softer approach towards nationalists than Serbia.

Vllasi was expelled for "political obstruction and destructive attitudes" which aggravated Albanian unrest. Tanjug news agency said.

But party sources said he can appeal against expulsion and that it would not prejudice his trial.

Many of the deposed Albanians are expected to be replaced by Serbs and ethnic Turks. Serbs have already replaced some factory and mine directors involved in strikes last month.



Haiti leader survives coup attempt 'linked with drugs'

blamed "a few men blinded by ambition" for the attempt to overthrow him.

Avril, who came to power in a coup last September, appealed to foreign governments for "understanding" and "moral support" and urged Haiti's six million people to work for democracy.

Last week his government sacked four lieutenant colonels in what political sources said was a crackdown on drug trafficking and set up a new anti-drugs bureau.

A U.S. official said the sackings were likely to have led to the coup attempt as "some military people thought it arbitrary."

Washington has said Haiti's cooperation to combat the drug trade would encourage the United States to resume aid cut off in

1987 after elections were cancelled when at least 34 died in a polling-day massacre.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and urgently needs foreign economic support.

Avril, looking tired but calm and surrounded by loyalist officers in the presidential palace, did not name the leaders of the uprising and did not say if there were any casualties.

He said his government "was doing all within its means to establish a democratic movement and reach economic stability" but he has yet to set a date for elections.

Haitians have had four military or military-backed governments since 1986, when former dictator Jean-Claude "baby doc" Duval-

lier fled to France, ending almost three decades of brutal rule by his family.

Some political sources said Avril was initially ousted from the presidential palace Sunday; but armed forces Commander-in-Chief General Herard Abraham refused the presidency.

One official said a crack military unit called the Leopards took hostages Sunday in protest over the reported arrest of their commander, Himler Rebu.

The official also said four senior military officers, including Rebu, were detained for allegedly leading the coup.

There were signs late Sunday that the Leopards' revolt had ended as government tanks withdrew from outside their barracks, eyewitnesses said.



Arrested dockworkers kneeling amid riot policemen last week at the Hyundai Heavy Industries shipyard.

Shipyard strikers battle Korea police

SEOUL (AP) — Fighting broke out again Monday between militant workers and police near South Korea's largest shipyard.

About 1,200 radical students and workers armed with firebombs, steel pipes and rocks fought riot police in streets and housing areas near the Hyundai Heavy Industries shipyard in Ulsan, 250 kilometres southeast of Seoul for the fourth consecutive day.

Hyundai officials said 8,500 riot police were deployed in and around the sprawling shipyard to safeguard operations and protect non-striking workers, many of whom have been attacked by members of the militant union.

About 75 per cent of the shipyard's 19,500 employees reported for work Monday, Hyundai officials said, but some left early and others staged work slowdowns to show sympathy with strikers.

A company official, requesting anonymity and speaking by telephone to the AP, said the "situation remains tense."

The vice-minister of the Labour Ministry, Lee Yong-Jun, and the director-general of the national police, Cho Chung-Suk, flew from Seoul to Ulsan by helicopter Monday to discuss the labour violence, which has threatened to spread.

The Hyundai group, one of the country's largest conglomerates, operates nine subsidiaries employing 100,000 persons in Ulsan, including the carmaker Hyundai Motor Company which has 28,000 workers. Ulsan has 700,000 residents.

Radical students and militant union members are protesting a raid by which 14,000 riot police last Thursday to end a sporadic, violent three-month-old strike at

the shipyard.

The police action sparked demonstrations on college campuses in seven cities and against Hyundai offices and car dealerships.

Protesters claimed President Roh Tae-Woo and big business interests such as Hyundai were threatening democracy and suppressing workers' rights by squashing a free labour movement.

"The intervention of police appears to have failed to settle the dispute at the Ulsan shipyard," said the Korean Language Chosun Ilbo newspaper. "Workers from other (Hyundai) subsidiaries joined protests."

Several hundred protesters and police have been injured in four days of fighting. Hit and run battles between firebomb throwing protesters and police firing tear gas have raged on city streets and near apartment residential areas, news reports said.

On Sunday, protesters burned two police buses and attacked several city buses, breaking windows and threatening people who refused to sympathise with the strike, news reports said.

Lahour union leaders demanded the withdrawal of riot police from the shipyard and nearby areas and the release of militant workers still under arrest. Police arrested 697 workers last Thursday and most were released, but formal charges were filed against 10 union leaders.

Militant Hyundai workers broke away from a company-sanctioned union Dec. 12 and set up a separate union, demanding pay hikes and better working conditions.

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's military leader General Prosper Avril said Monday he survived a coup attempt at the weekend apparently sparked off by his U.S.-backed efforts to clamp down on drug trafficking.

In a television broadcast shortly after midnight Monday, Avril

Australia heist causes sensation

SYDNEY (AP) — A mysterious executive accused of stealing 40 million dollars (\$33 million) in Australia's biggest corporate heist is believed hiding in the outback and may be a fugitive from West Germany, police said Monday.

The case of John Friedrich, who disappeared two weeks ago leaving Australia's largest non-governmental search and rescue service bankrupt, has caused a sensation as details continue to emerge.

Police Monday said they weren't even sure if Friedrich was

his true name, whether he is Australian or even if his birth or marriage records are genuine.

Police said they were now working with authorities in West Germany because of reports tentatively identifying Friedrich from published photographs as a Friedrich Hohenberger, who is alleged to have embezzled 200,000 dollars (\$162,000 U.S.) from a West German construction firm in 1974.

Police Monday admitted they had few leads but said it appeared Friedrich spent years master-

mind the collapse of his company, the National Safety Council, and making off with millions in company funds.

Friedrich became chief executive of the National Safety Council in the state of Victoria in 1986, transforming it from a one-aircraft operation into a national fleet and the country's largest private rescue company.

He disappeared March 21 after submitting his resignation. The next day his company went into receivership with debts of 225 million dollars (\$180 million

U.S.).

Friedrich's tearful wife Shirley has pleaded on national television for her husband to "come home and clean up this mess."

Police said Friedrich now leads the country's "most wanted" list and that his alleged pocketing of 40 million dollars makes it the country's biggest corporate theft.

He allegedly amassed loans worth millions of dollars and was able to dupe financial institutions by providing draft balance sheets that had not been certified by company accountants.

Drums still beat in Spain's Aragon

By Francois Raitberger
Reuter

SAMPER DE CALANDA, Spain — The drums that once warned of raiding Moors are still beating in Spain's Aragon region.

On March 24 this year, as on every Easter Good Friday since the middle ages, the inhabitants of nine villages in this arid, poor region of Spain donned black cassocks and head-dresses and walked the streets to the rhythmic beat of drums.

Men and women, small children and elders, all take part in the ritual drum beating. Many go without sleep for 36 hours and some pound so hard their hands bleed.

Despite the sinister appearance of the black-clad figures, the occasion is joyful and the drummers revel in serenading homes for drinks and cakes.

"We just love drums here," says Miguel Abos, who has played them since he was a child in Samper de Calanda. Now a university professor, he is one of hundreds who return every year to the village, swelling its population to double the usual 1,400.

Spanish film director Luis Bunuel drummed as a child in his nearby home village of Calanda. The memories stuck and drums are shown or heard in most of his films.

Virtually every Spanish village has an Easter fiesta, but the drumming tradition is unique to the nine villages in Aragon.

Local historians say it started in the middle ages when drums warned villagers to hide their meagre belongings from an approaching party of Moors.

Some say drums were used instead of bells, which were banned by the Catholic church on Good Friday. Others say drums were beaten to recall the thunderstorm which broke out when Jesus Christ died on the cross.

To the few trying to catch some sleep, the deafening beat does indeed sound like a looming, breaking and waning thunderstorm that continues relentlessly through the night.

Friends gather in groups and invent elaborate rhythms together to compete with rival bands, refreshing themselves

with cognac or nut liquor every once in a while at a friendly door.

Twice a day the groups melt into one huge procession to escort statues of Christ and the Virgin Mary to a hilltop shrine outside the village — a long column of black ants moving slowly up, accompanied by a simple, endlessly repeated beat.

Each village prides itself on its numbers of drummers. Samper de Calanda has some 600. Nearby Andorra has more than 2,000, and boasts the biggest bass drum — 2.10 metre in diameter.

When the procession breaks up, players pour disinfectant on their blistered hands and wine flows down throats parched by the white dust.

Drummers then gather for segregated meals, women at one house, men cooking for themselves at another.

And they talk about drums. Abos' group recalled the feat of a farmer who burst his drum the night before the festival. Rather than miss the occasion, he killed a goat, dried the skin in the oven and had a new

drum ready before dawn.

But few make their own drums any longer. They buy them from a local factory at a cost of \$130 to \$260 each.

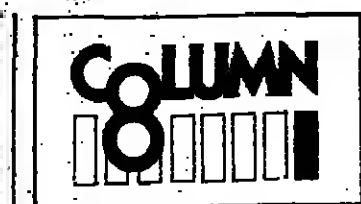
The tradition weakened after the 1936-39 civil war as there was no money for drums and no fabric for cassocks in the village, badly battered by advancing republican and nationalist forces.

Villagers say the local priest then tried to end Easter drumming, which he dismissed as a pagan tradition. The move created a backlash, and villagers started making drums again to save their festival.

Half the people of the sleepy region have emigrated abroad or left for city jobs over the years. But Miguel Franco, who heads the festival organising committee, said virtually all of them returned with their families for Easter.

In Abos' group, a shepherd, a police commissioner, a taxi driver, a journalist, a barman, a chemist and several farmers all happily drummed together.

"The cassocks make us all equal. And it's the drums that count," Abos said.



Cookie tower hits Paris

NEW YORK (AP) — An edible Eiffel Tower is the highlight of a French exhibition that features the cookie as art. The exhibition, which opens April 5 at the French Institute, shows paintings, photographs and cartoons commissioned since 1983 by the BSN group, a French food company.

The collection was built around Firmin Bouisset's original 1897 painting of "The Little Schoolboy." It ranges from a Marc Riboud photo series of a cookie-clasping Marcel Marceau to Italian artist Lanfranco Antonello's intricate collage, made of dried leaves, depicting a pastry shop. The 2.13-metre wooden tower, studded with cookies stuck to colourful frosting, was done by Dorteel Selz of Paris, a creator of Edible Art. "It's like architecture for me," Selz said.

She confided, "I don't eat cookies too much." Bowls of cookies will be strategically placed around the exhibit until April 29, when art-lovers will be allowed to devour the tower. Until then, if any wayward nibbling occurs, "I don't want to know about it," said Selz.

Run for China's environment

BEIJING (AP) — Environmentalists are sponsoring a 8,368-kilometre run across China, starting May 1, to highlight its ecological problems. About a dozen people from China and Japan already have signed up for the run across the plateau of western China to its wooded northeast, said Wang Gaoling, an organiser of the "For tomorrow, run through China" group. Some have signed up to run the whole distance, while others will only run segments. Wang said his group is made up of volunteers but has backing from the ministry of forestry, and China Central Television. He said the group also will start a drive to raise funds for the environmentally damaged areas of Peking, Xian in the west and Changchun in the northeast.

Kids 'read-a-thon' to raise money

NEW YORK (AP) — Schoolchildren have joined dozens of best-selling authors and publishing executives to start a nationwide literacy programme sponsored by the largest U.S. bookseller. "Team read," organised by Waldenbooks, will ask children to read, write their own stories and raise money for teaching other youths to read. The bookseller will conduct, among other events, a "Read-a-thon," with sponsors agreeing to pay a child for each book completed, and a writing contest, with \$1,000 savings bonds awarded to the authors.

Bangles recovered from buffalo's belly

CHANDIGARH (AP) — A farmer whose buffalo swallowed his wife's gold jewelry 12 years ago patiently waited for the animal to die a natural death, then recovered the baubles from the beast's belly. When the unidentified farmer bought the buffalo, his wife fed it a traditional mixture of sugary flour from a basin that she had forgotten also contained her jewelry, the Chandigarh Tribune reported Wednesday. The buffalo swallowed the woman's necklace, earrings and bangles worth about \$2,000, the newspaper said. Even though the farmer suggested that the animal be killed, he decided to wait until it died a natural death, the newspaper said. It finally died Sunday at the farm in Kaithal, 80 kilometres south of Chandigarh, the paper said.

The weather at major world capitals & cities

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	01	04	Clear
ATHENS	08	24	Clear
BAGHDAD	17	25	Clear
BANGKOK	27	31	Clear
BARCELONA	14	22	Clear
BEIJING	12	24	Clear
BOMBAY	24	32	Clear
BRAZILIA	24	28	Clear
CAIRO	12	24	Clear
CHICAGO	07	10	Rain
COPENHAGEN	02	08	Cloudy
DALLAS	02	08	Cloudy
DELHI	14	24	Clear
GENEVA	07	15	Cloudy
HONG KONG	24	28	Rain
ISTANBUL	12	24	Clear
JAKARTA	04	28	Cloudy
LAHORE	14	24	Clear
LOS ANGELES	14	24	Clear
MADRID	03	17	Cloudy
MEXICO	23	33	Clear
MUMBAI	21	28	Clear
MONTREAL	04	28	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	02	28	Clear
NEW YORK	02	24	Clear
PARIS	08	14	Cloudy
ROME	08	21	Cloudy
TOKYO	11	22	Rain
VIENNA	04	11	Cloudy